



IRAN NEWS



Ahmad Shah Masood's (L) Forces Recaptured Bagram Air Base Saturday and Are Advancing Toward Kabul
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50-Year Old Ivan Rybkin Is Russia's New Security Chief and Yeltsin's Representative in Chechnya
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French FM's Boycott Is "Slap in Face" for Israel

CAIRO, EGYPT (AFP) - The Arab League yesterday praised French President Jacques Chirac over his decision to go to Israel without his foreign minister, saying the move was a "slap in the face" for the Jewish state.

Herve De Charette will not accompany Chirac to Israel today in protest at Israeli opposition to a planned visit by the foreign minister to Orient House, unofficial headquarters of the Palestinian Authority in East Jerusalem.

"The French president's decision not to be accompanied by de Charette during his Israel visit is a strong slap in the face for the Jewish state," said the Arab League's Deputy Secretary General Said Kamal.

Chirac arrived Saturday in Syria at the start of a regional tour which will also take him to Israel, the Palestinian territories, Jordan, Lebanon and Egypt.

During the Israeli leg of the tour, de Charette will go to Egypt for talks with Foreign Minister Amr Moussa and then link up again with Chirac in the West Bank town of Ramallah, the Foreign Ministry in Paris said.

Israel, which rejects diplomatic or political activity by the Palestinians in annexed East Jerusalem, on Friday expressed satisfaction over the arrangement.

Kamal also urged the United States to "listen to the advice" of Europe on the Palestinian issue and the status of Jerusalem.

Israel seized Arab East Jerusalem in the 1967 Middle East War.

Israel-PA Hebron Talks Hit New Snag

GAZA CITY - Israeli-Palestinian talks on Israel's long-delayed withdrawal from the West Bank town of Hebron have hit a new hurdle, negotiators said yesterday as hopes faded of an early deal.

"There was no progress on Saturday evening during talks in Tel Aviv on the transfer of civilian authority to the Palestinians in Hebron," Palestinian negotiator Jamil Tarifi said.

"The Israelis are still trying to modify the accord and we refuse to renegotiate it," he said.
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DAMASCUS, SYRIA: French President Jacques Chirac (R) is greeted by his Syrian counterpart Hafez al-Assad upon his arrival at Damascus Airport Oct. 19 Damascus is the first leg of Chirac's week-long Middle Eastern tour. (AFP Photo)

Indian VP to Celebrate Birthday in Tehran, FM Gujral Due Here Next Month

BY IRFAN PARVIZ

TEHRAN - One of India's top statesmen, Vice President K. R. Narayanan, will arrive here Tuesday for a visit.

Narayanan, who is also chairman of the Indian Parliament's Rajya Sabha or Upper House, was invited by his Iranian counterpart Dr. Hassan Habibi and will stay for five days. He will celebrate his 76th birthday, Oct. 27, here in Tehran.

Another dignitary from India,

scheduled to come to Tehran, is External Affairs Minister Inder Kumar Gujral who is arriving here next month at the invitation of Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati.

Former journalist Narayanan, will be heading a high-level delegation representing several social, cultural, political and parliamentary organizations.

During his stay here Narayanan and members of his delegation will have a series of talks with

the Iranian officials including host, Habibi.

The Indian vice president will also call on President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani and Majlis Speaker Ali Akbar Nateq-Nouri.

It will be the second high-ranking Indian delegation to arrive in Tehran in two weeks. The first delegation, headed by Chief Justice A.M. Qazi Ahmadi arrived here on Oct. 14.

Qazi Ahmadi went to Iraqi cities of Najaf and Karbala for pilgrimage and is due back in Tehran soon on his way back to New Delhi.

In the meantime, officials and experts from Iran and India are these days busy finalizing details and technicalities of the upcoming meeting of the Indo-Iran Joint Commission which was long due and could not be held this year because of the elections first in Iran and then in India, an informed source told IRAN NEWS.



NARAYANAN

Gujral and Velayati will co-chair the joint commission meeting here next month.

Velayati was in New Delhi last week on a lightning visit for talks with Prime Minister H.V. Deve Gowda and Gujral on bilateral and regional issues particularly the Afghan crisis.

Narayanan's visit to Iran is symbolic but important because he commands great respect among the Indian politicians where even the top-notch leaders such as

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Iraq-Backed Faction Meets Fierce Resistance

SALAHUDDIN, IRAQ (AFP) - Iraqi-backed Kurdish guerrillas met fierce resistance yesterday as they tried to smash through the defenses around their rivals' stronghold of Sulaymaniyah.

The Kurdistan Democratic Party predicted it would capture Sulaymaniyah in 48 hours, but a Western humanitarian said the KDP faced "tough resistance" in the key town of Dukan on the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK).

"KDP guerrillas led by Masoud Barzani were pounding Dukan with howitzers while the PUK men are fighting back with mortar fire," said the worker who asked not to be named.

Dukan, which is the site of a hydroelectric plant that provides power to much of Iraqi Kurdistan, controls access to Sulaymaniyah, 50 kilometers (30 miles) further

east. The PUK also said it put up "heavy resistance" at Dukan and was locked in "ferocious fighting" with the KDP around Qala-Diza, See Page 13

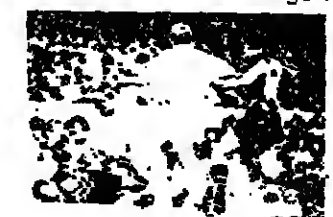
SUMMARY



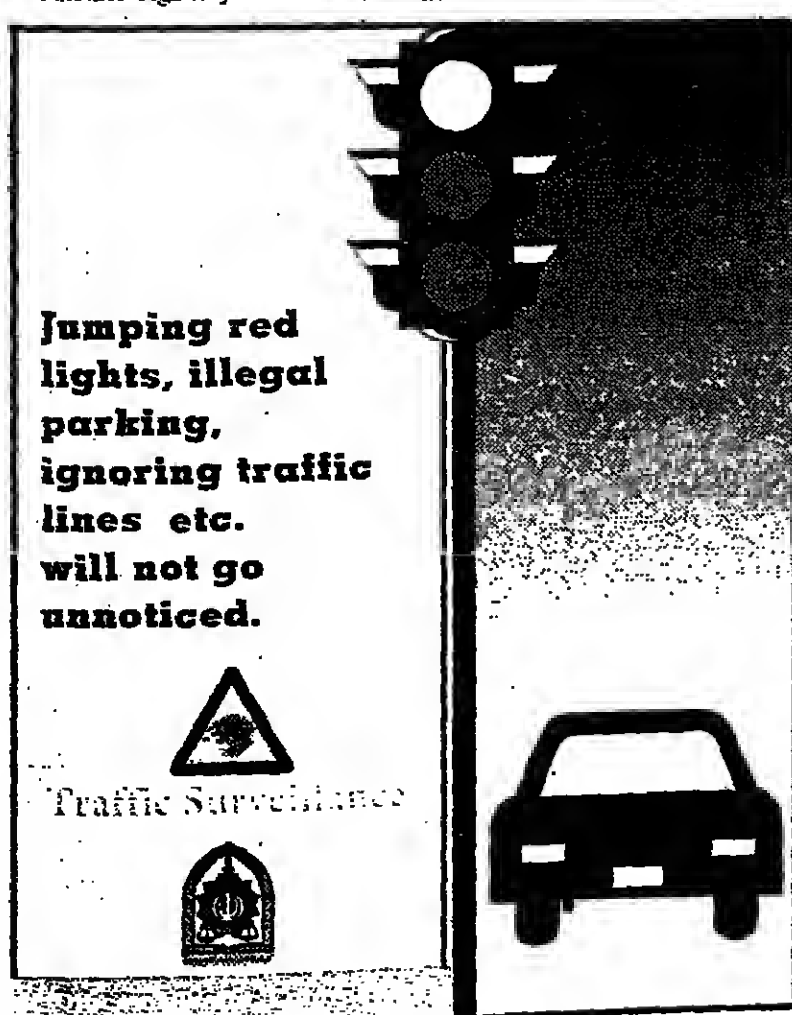
Picasso Glows in Paris Show
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Muslims Vote in Serb Parliament
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Rabbani Forces Rocket Kabul Airport

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN (AFP) - Advancing ex-government forces fired rockets on Kabul International Airport yesterday as the Taliban fundamentalist militia brought in hundreds of reinforcements to defend the city.

With a new battle for Kabul building, Taliban-controlled Radio Kabul said at least 800 troops had arrived in the capital in the past two days to be deployed in northern frontline positions.

Rockets fired by troops loyal to

the ousted government of President Burhanuddin Rabbani hit Kabul International Airport and the Taliban were forced to evacuate some helicopters, witnesses said.

It was the first bombardment of Kabul airport by former government forces since they lost the capital to the Taliban on September 27.

Infantry and tanks of former government military Commander Ahmad Shah Masood were said to

be just 18 kilometers (12 miles) from Kabul and clashes between the Taliban and Masood fighters were said to be raging just 25 kilometers (15 miles) from the city.

Troops loyal to Masood said he had visited the front line yesterday and asked his men to be "ready to fight the Taliban if they do not leave Kabul."

Forces belonging to northern warlord Abdul Rashid Dostam See Page 13

Islamic Women

IRAN NEWS

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EDITORIAL

Modern Statistics System Requisite

Iran's Statistics Center will launch a 25-day census beginning from October 22.

Population is a major parameter in planning and designing economic and industrial programs worldwide. To this end, a fit and mechanized statistics system with high capability is urgently needed to provide and present up-to-date and timely data.

Pitifully, Iran's statistics system faces many deficiencies at present, lacking the required high capability. Consequently, the data needed for economic planning are not adequately presented or are outdated with a high error incidence. These problems in turn disrupt the country's economic and industrial system.

Perhaps the need for an advanced statistics system is more tangibly felt now, overshadowing the utility of mere discussions on population figures and precise data. In addition, due investment on such a system is of paramount importance.

In case the country reaps benefit of a modern and computerized system for data collection in all areas, the ground will be paved for up-to-date and timely statistics which will be principally placed at the disposal of those needing them.

Surely under such conditions, highly accurate population data can be obtained in the shortest time with the least expenses.

Regrettably, the research centers and universities have so far incurred considerable losses due to the absence of a sound statistics system. Due attention has not been paid to the significance of up-to-date and timely statistics which is a key to development.

Right now, the country lacks up-to-date statistics in many economic areas. Statistics in these areas belong to a month or season back or even two years back.

In Iran, statistics are separately obtained on different occasions. Thus the country has to spend time and energy, as well as money, to repeat the same procedures. A fit statistics system will be beneficial for all research bodies for many years, providing accurate, timely, and comprehensive data for economic and industrial planners.

Now granted that we come up with statistics on the population, the same process should be repeated all over again in the next decade. Hence the need for an appropriate system is highly felt. When the updated population figures are incorporated into this system, the users can reap the benefit of latest data whenever they please.

At any rate, it is hoped that a modern statistics system would soon be installed to surmount the existing problems.

PRESIDENT:

Iran Has Historical Opportunity to Help Reconstruct Africa

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK
TEHRAN - "Agreements reached during our 6-nation African tour last September, have opened a historical opportunity for Islamic Iran to help develop and reconstruct the African continent," President Hajjatoleslam Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said Saturday referring to his visits to Kenya, Uganda, Sudan, Tanzania, Zimbabwe and South Africa.

Addressing the High Council for following up the results of his African visit, the President said that Africa, in view of its vast territory, abundant water resources and cheap and hardworking manpower, has all the potentials for economic development.

Referring to the vain attempts of the U.S. to pressure African states against broadening their relations with Iran, President Rafsanjani added that the African states and their people have evaluated the benefits of trade and economic ties with Islamic Iran and are ready to become free of the



President Rafsanjani (R) with Ugandan President Museveni (2nd R) and Foreign Minister Velayati (2nd L) in Kampala during Rafsanjani's African tour last month.

self-interested policies of the West.
During his African visit, the

Iranian President succeeded in breaking the ice between Uganda and Sudan, a move which greatly

displaced Washington. Earlier this month, Tehran hosted a meeting between the representatives of the two countries following resurfacing of tension.

Before the President's speech, Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati presented a report on the success of Rafsanjani's visit, and said that the people of Africa have high hopes attached to Iran's role in contributing to their economic development.

According to IRNA, at the end of Saturday's session, five expert committees in the political, trade, economic, cultural, technical and medical services fields were formed to study the prospects of Iran's contribution to Africa.

Iran's Ministry of Construction Jihad is already engaged in development projects in several African countries. On Thursday last, Iran Air started a flight to Kampala via Dubai, and has promised to extend its services to other African capitals.

British MP Looks at More Aid for Kurdish Refugees

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK
TEHRAN - A member of the British Parliament, Emma Nicholson, has arrived in Iran to see for herself Iraqi Kurdish refugee camps in the border area, and to discuss the supply of more aid as winter closes in. IRNA reported yesterday.

The report said 1,500 more Kurdish refugees had arrived at the Tleik-Kuh border point in

Kermanshah Province, placing more strain on the camps.

Nicholson has held talks with Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati on ways to provide assistance.

The Liberal Democrat MP has previously visited Iran and Iraq to look into the conditions of the Iraqi Kurdish and Shia Muslim people. She is also Chairwoman of AMAR (Assisting Marsh Ar-

abs and Refugees), an international non-governmental organization.

The latest refugee influx came as the Iraqi-backed fighters of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) moved toward Sulaymaniyah, the last stronghold of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) near the Iranian border.

The KDP almost drove the PUK out of Iraqi Kurdistan in September, sending tens of thousands of Kurdish refugees into Iran. The PUK had countered in the past 10 days, recapturing much of its lost ground, before losing it again in the last few days.

A refugee official, Ahmad Safavi, told IRNA that some refugees in a Kermanshah camp had begun to return to Iraq in the past week as the PUK pushed back the KDP.

Iranian camps house some 60,000 refugees, including 8,000 in Kermanshah. Safavi warned of a "human catastrophe" if more aid did not arrive ahead of the cold season.

Pakistani Ambassador Meets Larijani



MAHMOOD

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK
TEHRAN - Pakistan's Ambassador to Tehran, Khalid Mahmood met Majlis (Parliament) Foreign Policy Commission Vice Chairman Mohammad Javad Larijani here yesterday.

They reviewed the agenda of



LARIJANI

the Coordinating Committee session of the Islamic Inter-Parliamentary Union, due to be held in Tehran October 22-23.

A parliamentary delegation from Pakistan is due to arrive here today to attend the session, IRNA reported.

Iran for Ratification of Chemical Weapons Convention

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK
TEHRAN - The Convention on Chemical Weapons' deputy secretary, Shokat Omar, now in Iran, met with Vice President for Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Ataollah Mohajerani here yesterday.

Mohajerani said that Iran is the victim of chemical weapons, and proposed that production and use of chemical weapons be banned.

The Iranian vice president voiced Iran's readiness to contribute to the ratification of the chemical weapons convention but noted that the convention will not be so effective if not endorsed by some countries like the United States and the Russian Federation which are major producers of such weapons and have voiced opposition to the convention, IRNA reported.

Iranian Embassy Denies Iran's Involvement in N. Iraq Developments

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK
TEHRAN - Iran's Embassy in Ankara yesterday dismissed allegations raised by the Turkish daily Yeni Shafak as baseless. It alleged that Iran was involved in Northern Iraq developments.

The embassy issued a statement saying that Iranian diplomacy is based on non-interference in other countries, as well as Iraq's internal affairs and protection of its territorial integrity.

The statement said that false propaganda spread against Iran by certain rival factions, alleging Iranian involvement in clashes in Northern Iraq when they suffer set-back.

The embassy said Iran's goodwill is focused on settling the disputes between warring parties in Northern Iraq and the only link Iran has established with Northern Iraq, is confined to its dispatch of humanitarian relief aid for the innocent Muslim people in a bid to alleviate their sufferings, IRNA reported.

Kazakh Weekly Praises Iran's Attempts to Cease Afghan War

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK
TEHRAN - "Panorama" a Kazakhstan weekly in its latest issue lauded Iran's efforts to stop war and bloodshed in Afghanistan.

The weekly added that Tehran and Almaty believe the Afghan crisis can be solved only through negotiations and cooperation of all Afghan groups.

Panorama quoted Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati

as saying that the continuation of war in Afghanistan could make the whole region unstable. IRNA reported.

Tehran and Almaty hold that international bodies especially the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) should play a more active role in putting an end to the crisis of Afghanistan, the weekly added.

Iran's Ambassador to Bulgaria Appointed

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK
TEHRAN - Bagher Golzarnia was appointed Iran's new ambassador to Bulgaria Saturday. Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati proposed whilst President Akbar

Hashemi Rafsanjani approved. Golzarnia formerly served as consul general in Hamburg and director general for the Foreign Ministry's properties and logistics, IRNA reported.

کتابخانه

IRAN

DOMESTIC NEWS

President Receives Tumultuous Welcome in Ardebil

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani addressed a large group of people at a stadium in Ardebil, telling them that such a big crowd reminded him of the fever and enthusiasm shown by Iran's revolutionary people in the early days of the Islamic Revolution.

He said that if on the early days of the Islamic Revolution, the revolutionary spirit encouraged people to take to the streets. Today, the people do the same in light of their awareness and understanding of the state of affairs in their country.

President Rafsanjani said the popular turnout of people in Ardebil looked good for the friends and bitter for enemies.

He referred to the development plans underway throughout the country, saying that in the next two days projects worth over 1,000 billion rials will either be inaugurated or launched, indicating the large extent of the country's reconstruction program.

On the development of the provincial roads and railways, he said

a railway would connect the ancient city of Mianeh, East Azarbaijan, to Ardebil and then reach Azerbaijan Republic and that Ardebil would join Tabriz-Zanjan Highway soon.

President Rafsanjani arrived in Ardebil yesterday and received a warm welcome from the local people. While addressing people at the stadium, all nearby streets were crowded by people keen to welcome their President. IRNA reported.



RAFSANJANI

LET'S MEMORIZE THE QURAN

SURA 60, THE EXAMINER (AL-MUMTAHINA)

In the Name of God,

The Beneficent, the Merciful

And enmity and hatred shall for aens,

Between us run.

Until you are believing.

In God alone.

*The 5th part of the Holy Quran is obtainable in exquisite book-form from: FALSA Publication Ltd. 883 444-5

(F.N.)

Int'l Conference on Religion to Convene in Tehran

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - The International Conference on Religion and the Contemporary World will convene here November 23-24, 1996.



TASKHIRI

with the participation of scholars of the International Council of the Churches and Muslim dignitaries.

Addressing a press conference here yesterday, Head of the Organization for the Islamic Culture and International Relations Hojjatolislam Mohammad Ali Tashkiri discussed the subjects of the conference.

He enumerated the conference's subjects as "the role of religion in the modern world, religion and the concept of man, role of religion in ethical health of the modern world, role of religion in people's peaceful coexistence, role of religion in the modern world, religion and human rights, religion and important ethical issues, religion and peace, religion and justice, religion and the environment, the role of religion in economic and social balance".

The International Council of the Churches is stationed in Switzerland. The Iranian Christians follow this Council. The International Conference on Religion and the Contemporary World will be held at the Organization of Islamic Culture and International Relations.

Tashkiri said the Organization's secretariat is ready to hold dialogues with followers of all religions, even the Buddhists and Hindus.

"In addition to their political impacts, these dialogues will bring the followers of different religions closer," he said and cited the unity established between the Muslims and followers of the Catholic and

Orthodox Churches at the 1994 Cairo Family Conference and the 1995 Beijing Women's Conference.

PRAYER TIMES

Noon (Zohr)	11:39
Evening (Maghreb)	17:41
Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	04:44
Tomorrow's Sunrise	06:16

Velayati Receives AMAR Chairwoman



Photo by Mehrdad

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK
TEHRAN - Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati yesterday met with Emma Nicholson, Chairwoman of AMAR (Assisting Marsh Arabs and Refugees), for a briefing on the activities of this international non-

Nazirov Promoted as First Tajik Ambassador to Tehran

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK
TEHRAN - Tajikistan appointed Tashmat Nazirov as its first ever ambassador to Iran. Nazirov was serving as Tajikistan's charge d'affaires since the opening of the Tajik mission in Tehran.

Tajik President Imomali Shariyevich Rakhmanov made the announcement which was aired by Dushanbe TV Friday night. He underlined the importance of the Iran-Tajikistan bilateral relations. IRNA reported.

206kg of Illicit Drugs Seized

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK
TEHRAN - Mohammad Ali Zare, an official in the Law Enforcement Department in Mehriz, Yazd Province, said in the central city yesterday that some 206 kg of illicit drugs were confiscated during the past one week.

Zare added that 11 people were also been arrested in this connection. The seized narcotics included 126 kg of opium and 80 kg of morphine. IRNA reported.

governmental organization which operates in the Persian Gulf and Middle Eastern countries.

Nicholson, a British MP, explained that AMAR was mainly concerned with providing refugees and the homeless with food, sanitation, education and employment.

This visit to Iran was to inspect the camps set up for Iraqi Kurdish refugees, she said. Nicholson said she would also be looking at ways to deliver more relief operations, in coordination with relevant Iranian organizations.

Repatriation of Iraqi Kurdish Refugees Stopped

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - Governor General of Sulaymaniyah Salar Aziz Esmail stressed Saturday in Sulaymaniyah that return of Iraqi Kurdish refugees, stationed at Iranian refugee camps, to Northern Iraq has become impossible.

The governor general of this Northern Iraqi province added that repatriation of the Kurdish refugees has been stopped due to the capture of Koysanjak, Heybat Sultan Heights and Halabcheh.

The repatriation began last Tuesday and some 500 Iraqi Kurdish families returned to Sulaymaniyah by last Thursday.

27b Rials to Be Spent on Dredging Bahmanshir River

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Some 27 billion rials out of the credit, earmarked for reclamation and reconstruction of war-torn regions, has been allocated for cleansing Bahmanshir River (Khuzestan) of explosives and sunken ships left over from the Iraqi imposed war (1980-88).

Nearly two million cubic meters of the river have been cleansed of residues so far.

Gholam-Hussein Abdollahi,

head of the Headquarters for Reconstruction and Renovation of War-Stricken Regions, said here yesterday that about 90 percent of the sunken ships and materials have been spotted and pulled out of the river.

He added that over 70 percent of the river contaminated with explosives as well as areas within a 100 meter radius of the bridges over the river have been cleansed and dredged. IRNA reported.

Iran, Oman Ties Discussed

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - Oman's State Minister for Foreign Affairs Yusuf bin al-Alawi Abdullah met Iran's Ambassador to Oman Siyavash Zargar Yaqubi to exchange views in

Muscat yesterday.

The talks were mainly centered on the latest developments in the two countries' bilateral relations as well as regional issues of mutual interest. IRNA reported.

Book Review

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK
TEHRAN - The new issue of the Nameh Farhang Quarterly, entitled Creativity and Culture, has just hit the stands.

This issue includes "Editorial on Creativity and Culture", "Forum on Creativity and Culture", "What Is Secularism?", "Contradictions in the Reformist Movement", "Islam and Western Scientism", "Structure of Artistic Revolutions".

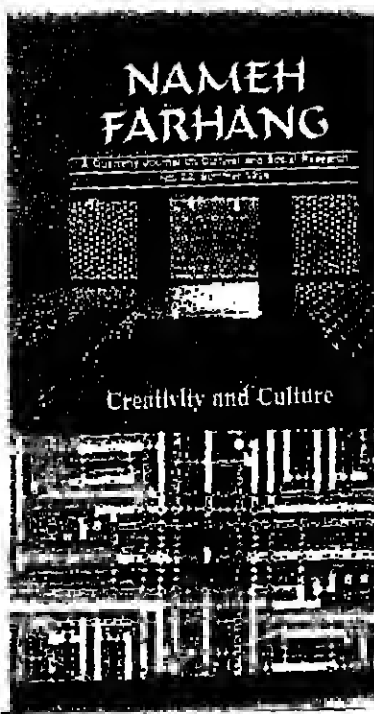
Other subjects taken up in this issue are "Methods for Understanding Religions", "Foucault on Truth", Principle of Individualism

New Issue of Nameh Farhang Hits Stands

and Theory of Universals in the Works of Boethius", "Asia as Viewed by the Europeans", "From Buddha to Idol", "Universality of Human Rights and Cultural Diversity", "The Train of Cultures", "Birth of the Text", "Transient Essence of the World According to Bidel".

This issue also presents "Reports", "Letters", and "Book Reviews".

The Nameh Farhang, a quarterly journal on cultural and social research, is published by the Organization for Islamic Culture and Communications.



ortunity
Africa

Iranian
Embassy
Denies Iran's
Involvement
in S. Iraq
Developments

Weekly
a Case

Ambassador to
ria Appointed

ECONOMIC NOTE

Flights to Uganda in the Heart of Africa

BY: NADER ADABI

With the start of Iran Air's weekly flights to Uganda in the heart of the African continent only one month after President Rafsanjani's tour there, the first serious step toward expanding relations between the Islamic Republic and Africa has been taken. The speedy inauguration of the Tehran-Kampala flight surprised the authorities in Uganda, and they have expressed their appreciation for this action.

Despite a beautiful, green landscape, the giant Lake Victoria and many sightseeing attractions, the majority of Uganda's people are suffering from severe poverty — a problem echoed in many African states, which is sad for a continent so rich in natural resources.

The flight is not an ordinary air link between two nations, but is a bridge for Iran to help Africa with its vast potential for development.

But this flight is expensive, a factor that necessitates regular passengers in the seats. Perhaps, at the beginning, the operation will not be profitable, but if Iranian and Ugandan authorities cooperate closely towards expanding economic relations, the route might turn into a golden one for Iran Air.

Without cooperation, not only will the air service fail to contribute to Uganda's development, but it might turn into an ordinary, low-profit air route.

It is therefore incumbent upon both nations to make maximum use of this weekly flight to Entebbe Airport at Kampala, an eight-hour flight which entails a lot of expense for the national flag carrier.

Despite Lake Victoria, Uganda has water and electricity shortages. The first step in helping the country would be to establish water and power plants which might serve as a turning point for development. Besides, an abundance of potable and irrigation water might help improve health and hygiene in many towns in Uganda, which currently suffer from a prevalence of yellow fever, malaria and other diseases related to unsanitary water.

On the other hand, favorable weather and fertile soil means the potential for the expansion of agriculture in Uganda is great. Improved agriculture there would not only satisfy domestic food requirements, but could also open export markets.

Iran, having trodden the road to agricultural development, has experience in this field which can be transferred, and can move to establish food conversion and processing industries to help earn Uganda badly needed foreign exchange.

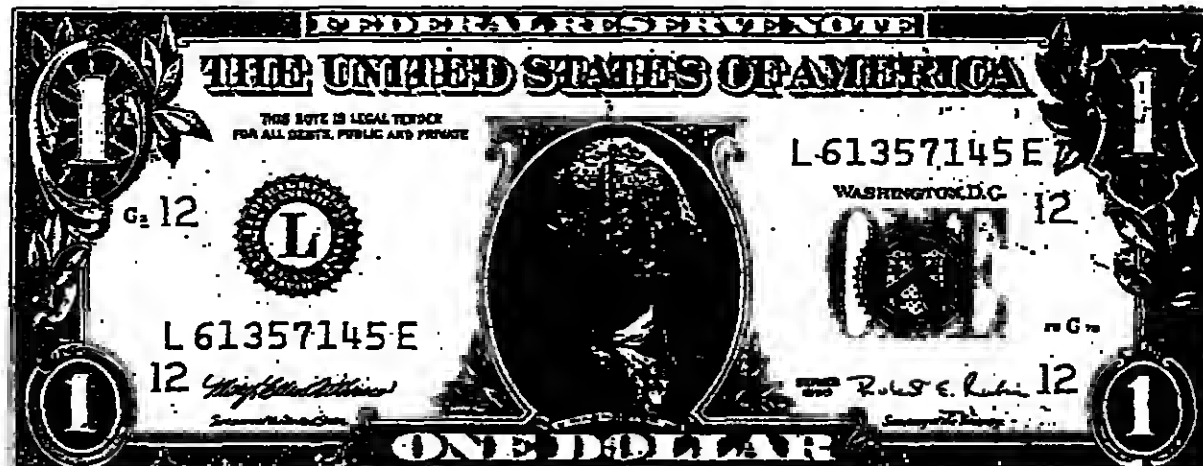
Meanwhile, since overpopulation is a problem in Uganda, Iran can use its advanced housing technology to relieve population congestion, shipping prefabricated housing materials and building houses there.

Along with these activities, Iran could dispatch various governmental and non-governmental economic teams to Uganda to explore the ways and means of establishing different industries.

The inauguration of Iran Air's flights to Uganda will serve as an avenue for expansion of relations between Tehran and Kampala, the heart of Africa, and will lead to other routes in that continent. With reciprocal cooperation we hope for a blossoming of Uganda's economy.

ECONOMY MINISTER:

Govt. to Prevent Rise in Foreign Exchange Rates



TEHRAN (IRNA) - The government prevents any rise in the parity rates of hard currencies because it will lower the purchasing power of the national currency, said Minister of Economy and Financial Affairs, Morteza Mohammad-Khan here yesterday.

Tehran-Seoul Economic Cooperation Discussed

TEHRAN (IRNA) - S. Korean Ambassador to Tehran Kim Jae Kyu here on Saturday called for development of economic cooperation between Tehran and Seoul.

In a meeting with Interior Minister Ali Mohammad Besharati, Kim hoped that the upcoming session of the Tehran-Seoul joint economic commission to be held in November would help accelerate the growing trade of cooperation between the two countries.

The South Korean ambassador also appreciated Iran's humanitarian aid to about two million foreign refugees.

Besharati said in response that the Islamic Republic of Iran is interested in developing relations with South Korea in all areas and would share experiences with Seoul in the fight against drug trafficking and terrorism through the International Police (Interpol).

He also pointed out Iran's strategic geo-political location, and said the Islamic Republic serves as a bridge between the Central Asian and Southeast Asian nations following the opening of the Mashhad-Sarakhs-Tajik Railway last May.

Besharati voiced Iran's readiness to facilitate transit of goods between South Korea and the Central Asian republics.

Saturday's Trading at Tehran Stock Exchange

TEHRAN (IRNA) - A total of 8,301,129 shares, worth over 28.7 billion rials were traded in 1,694 turns for 791 applicants here at the Stock Exchange on Saturday.

In Saturday's deals, share prices of 51 companies increased, while those of 35 others declined.

The general index price of shares for Saturday reached 2,127.73 points, indicating a fall of 26 points compared to that of Wednesday.

Mohammad-Khan, addressing a gathering of directors of the Financial Organization for Expansion of Ownership of Manufacturing Units, said that among major plans adopted by the government are to curb rising inflation, increase purchasing power of the public and strengthen the national currency.

However, he added government's main policy was to check the rate of inflation.

The minister called on producers not to seek increased profits through lower production and higher prices.

He said that at present replacing imports constitutes a part of the industrial policy of the country, adding that enhancement of exports will be pursued in the course of the Second Five Year Development Plan (1995-1999) as a complementary measure which itself requires an increase in the quality of products and reduced wastes.

Touching on the rise in production in the country over recent years, Mohammad-Khan said that Iran's petrochemical output had reached 10 million tons, whereas the figure stood at 400,000 tons at the outset of the First Five Year Development Plan (1989-1993).

He said that Iran was self-sufficient in the area of producing construction materials and there was no need to import them.

Despite having limited water resources, he added, growth in the agriculture sector has remained nearly stable, but the industry sector is expected to show a growth rate of 18 percent in case of due planning.

Concluding his remarks, he said that Iran's hard currency shortage has been improved in recent years, adding that the government is to boost the industry sector in order to make the optimum use of the existing production potential of the country.

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Iran Air, having opened up flights to Uganda, is now investigating new routes in the African continent, particularly to South Africa, according to Hassan Shafii, the airline's managing director.

Shafii addressed the press here yesterday on his return from the Tehran/Kampala/Tehran inauguration flight. Iran Air's weekly flight to Dubai, Nairobi and Kampala could serve as a prelude for flights to other states in Africa, he said.

The service had been welcomed by the Ugandan authorities, Shafii added, and to personally express his thanks and appreciation to President Rafsanjani, the Ugandan President will dispatch a delegation to Tehran shortly.

"This flight, being the first from Tehran to Nairobi, can serve as a start to many political, economic and cultural activities between the two nations, provided the Iranian ministries and organizations and Ugandan authorities cooperate closely with the airline," Shafii said.

Several Majlis deputies and high ranking government officials were on the flight to Uganda, and negotiated different economic contracts with their Ugandan counterparts.

The Tehran/Kampala/Tehran ticket is sold at 3,126,400 rials, with a 40% discount for Iranian travelers.

Baradaran-e Sadri Koloocheh

is pleased to be the foremost producer of tasty and appetizing Koloocheh (cookies) for the last 50 years.



Our cookies are delicious and hygienic

Sadri Family Koloocheh is another exceptional product of Baradaran-e Sadri Production Co.

The IRAN Standard Mark represents quality

Factory address: km 16 on the Rasht/Fouman Rd., Baradaran-e Sadri Production Co. Tel: 0131-55689 Friday Market Tel: 01373-2330 Fax: 01373-2388

17 Iranian Companies Present in Tunisia Int'l Trade Fair

TEHRAN (IRNA) - The Islamic Republic of Iran is represented by 17 manufacturing companies in the international trade fair in Tunisia.

The Tunisian prime minister and minister of commerce attended the inaugural ceremony of the fair held on Friday.

Iranian Ambassador to Tunisia M. Mozafari also present in the ceremony said that Iran's participation in international exhibitions will prepare the ground for further enhancement of the country's

non-oil exports.

He also underlined the importance of upgrading the quality of Iranian products in order to be sold on world markets.

Iran has put on display over 63 items of its products such as carpets and manufactured goods in a 450 square meter pavilion at the fair.

Altogether 40 countries, among them, Germany, France, Japan, Russia, England, U.S.A., and China are taking part in the 10-day exhibition.

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WORLD NEWS

Iran Air's Uganda Flight Open Opportunities

cliques are exaggerated. Mrs. Kihara said her acceptance by the group was gradual, but it did come - the others began talking to her, inviting her to their homes.

Jon Minamii, 29, also said she was overwhelmed at first by the park atmosphere, but found it relatively easy to make friends, in time.

"Look at me," she said, pointing to her faded dungaree jacket and unusual frizzy perm. "I have this hair and these clothes, but I'm still friends with these people."

former Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao are being tried for fraud and corruption charges. Narayanan is one of those considered to be 'Mr. Clean' among the Indian politicians.

Narayanan, married with two daughters, worked with India's prestigious dailies 'The Hindu' from Madras and 'The Times of India' from Bombay before joining India's foreign service.

He served with his country's diplomatic missions in several countries and finally in 1976 became foreign secretary, a top civil service post in the Ministry of External (Foreign) Affairs.

After retirement, Narayanan was appointed chancellor of the prestigious Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) in New Delhi in 1979. There are a good number of Iranians who studied in JNU and now serve in the government of the Islamic Republic.

"He (Narayanan) is a highly educated person with excellent academic qualifications," an Iranian official commented while talking to IRAN NEWS.

As a lawmaker, Narayanan held the post of minister of state in charge of several sensitive portfolios such as planning, external affairs and atomic energy.

He was awarded several national and international awards for his political and academic achievements and his work in social understanding and efforts to uplift the status of the poor and uneducated sectors of the society.

Narayanan has written several books including one on 'Non-Alignment in Contemporary International Relations.'

another front around 70 kilometers (45 miles) north of Sulaymaniyah.

The PUK launched a counter-offensive against Barzani's forces 10 days ago, recapturing Sulaymaniyah and other territory it had lost last month to the Kurdish faction backed by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

The PUK pushed the KDP back to the outskirts of the Kurdish capital of Erbil, which Barzani's fighters seized on August 31 with the help of Iraqi troops, but late last week the KDP launched a counterattack of its own.

After seizing Koysanjak, the hometown of PUK Leader Jalal Talebani, on Friday, KDP fighters captured the town of Ranya on Saturday and were closing in on Sulaymaniyah from the west and north.

The fighting has fueled new fears of an exodus of refugees. A Western aid official said 65 families fled Sulaymaniyah overnight Friday toward the Iranian border, fearing the fall of the city to the KDP.

The official Iranian news agency, IRNA, said PUK leaders had begun preparations to evacuate Sulaymaniyah, the second largest city in Iraqi Kurdistan.

IRNA also said the Kurdish Hizbollah has handed over territory under its control in Northern Iraq to the advancing KDP forces to "prevent further bloodshed."

British Member of Parliament Emma Nicholson was in Iran to visit Iraqi Kurdish refugee camps and discuss sending aid amid warnings from Tehran of a "human catastrophe," IRNA added.

The KDP accuses the PUK of receiving military support from Iran, an allegation supported by Turkey but denied by the PUK and Tehran.

Meanwhile, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Robert Pelletreau will hold talks in the Turkish capital of Ankara on Tuesday with Talebani in a bid to end the fighting, said a PUK representative, Mohammad Ismail.

The State Department said Pelletreau was due to leave Washington yesterday to meet separately with Talebani and Barzani about ending the fighting. Ismail said Barzani would meet Pelletreau in Silopi, near the Iraqi-Turkish border.

In the southeastern Turkish city of Diyarbakir, sources yesterday said the United States has completed a new operation to evacuate more than 700 Iraqi dissidents from Northern Iraq into Turkey.

About 730 people crossed the border gate of Habur and were taken to a camp in Silopi town Saturday and early yesterday, they said. The group was expected to be flown to the U.S. military base on the Pacific island of Guam.

The dissidents fled their homes in the cities of Erbil and Sulaymaniyah in Northern Iraq during the KDP offensive last month.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu also struck a pessimistic note after being briefed by his Chief of Staff Amnon Shahak and West Bank military officials.

"I am not at all sure that we will wrap this up this week. Negotiations are still at a sensitive phase," Netanyahu told Israeli radio.

Israeli FM Optimistic About Palestinian State

CAIRO, EGYPT - Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy yesterday did not rule out the creation of a Palestinian state and said there were "real grounds for optimism" for a quick agreement on Hebron.

Levy made the remarks in an interview with the London-based Arab daily Al-Hayat, conducted Wednesday and published yesterday.

Asked if he expected the creation of an independent Palestinian state in the future, Levy said: "We have recognized the Palestinian Authority and we consider it our only partner in the negotiations."

"Do you want me to predict the outcome of the negotiations? Who knows. Maybe we can surprise the world. The hope in the future is what everyone agrees upon," Levy said.

Arafat Laments Rabin's Loss

JERUSALEM - Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat yesterday paid tribute to former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, assassinated a year ago by a right-wing Jewish extremist.

"Shalom haver (hello friend), I miss you," said Arafat, using the words of U.S. President Bill Clinton at Rabin's funeral, in an interview for Israeli public radio in Gaza City.

Commemorations are to be held across Israel this week to mark the first anniversary, according to the Jewish lunar calendar, of Rabin's murder at a peace rally in Tel Aviv on November 4, 1995.

Rabin made history when he became the first Israeli leader to shake Arafat's hand on the White House lawn following the signing of the Declaration of Principles on the Israeli-Palestinian peace process in September 1993.

However, Arafat said there "was no progress" in the current round of Israeli-Palestinian negotiations on the Israeli army's long-delayed pullback from the West Bank town of Hebron.

Bomb Wounds Civilian in Israeli-Occupied Zone of South Lebanon

MARIJAYOUN, LEBANON - A Lebanese civilian was wounded yesterday when a roadside bomb blew up in the Israeli-occupied border zone of Southern Lebanon, Israel's proxy South Lebanon Army militia said.

The motorist was injured when the bomb went off in the Jezzine area of the buffer strip, a militia source said.

No group claimed responsibility for the attack. The Hizbollah, which spearheads anti-Israeli operations in the occupied zone, denied links with the incident.

were also advancing toward Kabul directly behind Masood's men, an AFP journalist saw yesterday.

Dostam has a defensive alliance with the former government, but has denied claims by Masood's forces that his troops have been fighting alongside them.

A truck convoy of Dostam's troops was seen moving toward the city from the Salang Pass to the north.

One group, made up of two tanks and two trucks, was seen taking up positions near Bagram Air Base, 50 kilometers (30 miles) north of Kabul, which Masood's troops captured late Friday.

However, the troops were taking no part in the fighting.

Dostam has signed a defensive alliance with deposed-President Rabbani and Masood together with the leader of the Hezb-i-Wahdat of Karim Khalili.

He has also held negotiations with a Taliban delegation under the auspices of Pakistan Interior Minister Naseerullah Babar.

Meanwhile, it was reported from Islamabad that Dostam has proposed a nationwide cease-fire in Afghanistan from today noon (07:30 GMT), a Taliban minister said yesterday.

The proposal was conveyed to the Taliban leadership by Pakistani Interior Minister Naseerullah Babar, who is currently engaged in shuttle diplomacy between the Afghan factions, Taliban's Deputy Foreign Minister

Abdul Jalil said.

On the desert to the northeast of Kabul the new road was defended by Taliban on the ridgeline that overlooks the Bagram plains and the military air base that they lost.

The Taliban reinforcements were brought from Paktia Province in southeast Afghanistan, which has been under Taliban control for more than a year, according to the official radio, which the Islamic militia has re-christened Radio Shariat.

Residents also reported the arrival of large numbers of Taliban men, vehicles and weaponry from southern Afghanistan.

The Taliban, who began a quest to establish an Islamic regime in Afghanistan two years ago, control more than two thirds of the country.

But former government troops have been mounting a strong fight-back since losing the capital.

Masood troops launched a guerrilla war nearly two weeks ago after the Islamic militia captured much of the territory up to Masood's bastion in the Panjshir Valley.

Ex-government commanders say they are confident of taking the capital back from the Taliban.

"It was an easy clash and tomorrow we will take Kabul if the Taliban have not left the city," said Moulana Hassakhed, a commander with the former government's forces in Sarai Khodja, 25 kilometers north of Kabul.

An AFP correspondent who witnessed fighting in the village said artillery combat took place on the road linking Kabul and northern Afghanistan. The sound of cannons, mortar and rocket-launchers could be heard amid intermittent machine gun fire.

Hassakhed said 40 Taliban troops and just one of Masood's troops had died in the most recent fighting. No independent confirmation of casualties was available.

Iran to Fly Its Own Helicopter

ISFAHAN (IRNA) - The Iranian made helicopter 'Shahed X-5' would be flown next year, said managing director of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps' (IRGC) Institute of Industrial Research and Development here on Saturday.

Sayed Saeed Ziaie told IRNA that 70 percent of the helicopter's parts have been designed and built by Iranian experts.

The 4-seat helicopter with a speed of 400 kms per hour has been designed to fly at a maximum altitude of 4,500 meters, he said.

Ziaie added that the IRGC industries have plans to mass-produce 50 Shahed X-5s annually if the necessary resources and financial support are provided.

138 Pieces of Antique Gold Ornaments Discovered

BUSHEHR (IRNA) - A total of 138 antique pieces of gold ornaments, dating back to the Saffuk era, were unearthed in a provincial village recently, it was reported here yesterday.

The antiques, including 52 big and small pieces of gold ingots, such ornaments as bracelet, earring, necklace and anklet, small and big pieces of dimensional objects and Byzantine gold coins, had been hidden inside a pottery jar beneath a rural building.

WEATHER

Tehran Temperature			
Maximum	21°C		
Minimum	12°C		
Partly cloudy with wind			
Temperature extremes till noon today			
High: Omidiyeh	36°C		
Low: Khalkhal	-03°C		
Temperature in some major cities of the world on Oct. 18, 1996			
Moscow	11°C	Kuwait	32°C
Riyadh	30°C	Rome	15°C
Athens	21°C	Vienna	15°C
Paris	15°C	Frankfurt	12°C

1,500 Iraqi Kurdish Refugees Return Home Voluntarily



Scenes from the fighting in Iraqi Kurdistan

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - It was announced in Sardasht that some 1,500 Iraqi Kurdish refugees residing in different refugee camps on the border areas of the northwestern province of West Azarbaijan, voluntarily returned home.

Qasem Hassan-Nejad, Red Crescent Society's Sardasht head, added that due to cold weather and relying on relative security established in some regions in Northern Iraq, more Iraqi refugees are most

probably going to leave for their homeland in near future.

Despite cold weather and fuel shortage, Iran is still providing humanitarian aid to some 30,000 Iraqi Kurdish refugees.

Kurdish refugees fled Northern Iraq following the joint assault launched by Iraqi troops and Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) and since then they have settled at different refugee camps in Iranian border areas, IRNA reported.

Ayatollah Yazdi Gives Advice on Employing Well-Trained Census Takers

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Conducting census is an important and sensitive task whose results would be of use in future decision makings by managers, said Head of the Judiciary Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi here yesterday.

Speaking to the head and staffers of Iran's statistics center on the eve of the upcoming public census on housing and population, the Ayatollah said that the statistics would serve as a real and accurate instrument that would

make any manager successful if used properly.

He said that since planning will be a necessity of all human societies, well-trained and patient census takers should be employed in the forthcoming public census.

Meanwhile, head of the center, Abbas-Ali Zali, said that some 60,000 census takers of whom 55,000 have undergone necessary courses would launch the public census in a 25-day period beginning from October 22.

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Russian Soldiers Fired Upon in Grozny

MOSCOW, RUSSIA (AFP) - A military checkpoint in the village of Djalka 20 kilometres (12 miles) east of the Chechen capital Grozny was fired upon with automatic weapons overnight, the Interfax news agency said.

Although there were no casualties reported, a military official in Grozny said that Russian soldiers turned fire.

With the exception of this incident, the official commented that the situation in Chechnya "is very quiet, without particular changes just as it has been over the past several days". Interfax reported.

Meanwhile, it was reported from Orekhovo, Russia, that Chechen rebel leader Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev accused Russia yesterday of stalling on the peace process and on economic reconstruction in the shattered breakaway republic.

Ten Sentenced to Jail for Arson Attacks in Bahrain

MANAMA, BAHRAIN (AFP) - Ten Bahrainis have been condemned to between six months and three years in prison for arson attacks and vandalism during anti-government unrest, newspapers said yesterday.

The State Security Court sentenced four people to three years in prison for torching a tailor's shop and attacking a worker there, the "Gulf Daily News" said. One other person was jailed for two years in the same case.

Last-Minute Efforts Underway on Holding Bosnian Municipal Elections

SARAJEVO, BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA (AFP) - Last-minute diplomatic efforts to save Bosnia's municipal elections from cancellation were underway yesterday

in the Bosnian capital today to help pave the way for the crucial local vote which has run into major difficulties in recent days.

Following last month's general

election, the Americans are the only ones keen to hold the municipal elections.

Robert Frowick, the U.S. official supervising the polls for the

much against any commitment to the elections at all. Now the Americans have come in and are trying to get the rest of the Contact Group to agree to it," one diplomat said.

Chief among the obstacles to holding the vote are the Bosnian Serbs who have said they will hold their own municipal elections which the OSCE can monitor but not supervise.

In a letter to Frowick, Bosnian Serb President Biljana Plavsic has argued that the holding of the elections is "non-binding" under the Dayton Peace Agreement.

Further, many of the problems that tarnished the September 14 general elections such as a lack of freedom of the media, speech and association, have not been overcome.

Meanwhile the OSCE still has to resolve major logistical issues such as gathering enough monitors to police the estimated 3,000 polling stations on the day.

The NATO-led Peace Implementation Force (IFOR) which is to provide security on the day is also growing impatient with the OSCE.

Planning is on schedule NATO says, but "we need some hard decisions taken to move these plans forward. We are basically planning on the basis of assumptions," said one officer.

Officially, the decision to hold the vote has already been taken but many cogged in implementing Dayton are growing anxious that the OSCE is still wavering over its decision.

"Generally speaking, the feeling is that keeping any kind of decision waiting further is farcical and this has to stop," a Western diplomatic source said.



BANJA LUKA, BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA: Muslim delegates of Bosnian Serb Republic Parliament raise their votes to oppose the election of the parliament vice president during the first Parliament session after elections in Bosnia in Banja Luka Oct. 19. The Parliament elected Dragan Kalinic unanimously as the speaker of the parliament to replace Momcilo Krajcivnik. Muslim deputies then left the chamber as their Serb colleagues took the oath of office.

(AFP Photo)

ahead of a visit by U.S. envoy John Kornblum to Bosnia.

Ambassadors to Bosnia from the Contact Group member states, Britain, France, Germany, Russia and the United States, were meeting yesterday afternoon to discuss holding the elections, officials told AFP.

Kornblum, Washington's troubleshooter for the Balkans, is due

election, the countrywide local election, scheduled to take place November 23-24, is the remaining step to creating new ruling institutions for postwar Bosnia.

The poll has already been postponed once because of widespread voter registration fraud, and now the number of voices calling for a further postponement is growing.

In fact, diplomats sources said

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), has said the election will go ahead despite dissent from many quarters, including OSCE Chairman Flavio Carboni.

Carl Bildt, the international envoy to Bosnia, is also against the vote as are the other Contact Group members, sources said.

"Last week, they were all very

Jordan Human Rights Abuses Up

AMMAN, JORDAN (AFP) - Human rights abuses are on the rise in Jordan with torture, summary arrests and attacks on press freedom becoming widespread, the Arab Human Rights Organization said yesterday.

"The situation is deteriorating all the time and is reminiscent of the time when the country was under martial law, before the process of democratization began in 1989," said Labib Kamhawi, of the watchdog's Jordanian branch.

The government of Prime Minister Abdel Karim Kabariti has "stepped up human rights violations, summary arrests and torture," Kamhawi told a press conference as he presented a special report on Jordan.

German Police Confirm Body Is Kidnapped Millionaire

FRANKFURT, GERMANY (AFP) - A battered body found in woods near the western city of Wiesbaden was that of kidnapped German millionaire Jakob Fiszman, regional police confirmed yesterday.

An analysis carried out overnight of genetic samples taken from the body found by searchers on Saturday confirmed that it was Fiszman, a 40-year-old businessman, police said.

He died after suffering several blows struck with "considerable violence," said the regional police, or LKA.

Fiszman was abducted in Frankfurt on October 1 but was not released despite payment of a ransom of four million marks (\$2.6 million) nine days later.

Kuwait's Emir Urges End to Bickering, Crown Prince Warns of Iraqi Threat

KUWAIT CITY, KUWAIT (AFP) - Kuwait's emir yesterday urged the government and new parliament to stop quarrelling over legislation as the crown prince warned that an "expansionist" Iraq remained a threat to national security.

"It's very important that we know the limits of legislative and executive powers and don't continue quarrelling between us," the Emir, Sheikh Jaber al-Ahmad al-Sabah, said when he opened the parliament elected on October 7.

The last Parliament or National Assembly, which was dominated

by the Islamist and liberal opposition, was often at odds with pro-government MPs and the government over legislation.

The new Assembly has a majority of pro-government candidates.

The emir also said the opposition was wasting its time calling for an end to the crown prince's also holding on to the job of prime minister. "We all know that this issue is the right of the emir alone," he said.

The emir renamed the Crown Prince, Sheikh Saad al-Abdullah al-Sabah, as prime minister after

the previous government resigned in the wake of the parliamentary elections.

Sheikh Saad meanwhile delivered the emiri address to the parliament in which he said concerns about Iraq and the country's economy topped the list.

"The continued moves and threats by the Iraqi regime still highlight its determination to threaten the peace and security for



AL-SABAH

our entire region and its aggressive and expansionist designs," he said.

"The government will continue to attach greatest importance to the international dimension of the security of the state of Kuwait," Sheikh Saad said, referring to defense pacts with the United States and other allies.

"National security, both internal and external, will continue to head the government's priorities, including building up the armed forces," he said.

He also outlined economic concerns.

Sri Lanka Mounts Anti-Tiger Offensive

COLOMBO, SRI LANKA (AFP) - Security forces bombed a key Tamil Tiger base in northern Sri Lanka as rebels elsewhere torched a wildlife bungalow and tried to sabotage a telephone exchange, officials said yesterday.

The air force bombed the "Sea Tiger" bases of the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in the coastal Chundikkulam bird sanctuary region over the weekend, officials said.

There said damage to the guerrillas' facilities was believed to be high but no details were immediately known.

The long-range attacks came as police shot dead a Tamil Tiger guerrilla who was about to bomb a key telephone exchange in

north-eastern Sri Lanka, local officials said.

Snatches opened fire when two members of the LTTE approached the new 200-line telephone exchange at Kinniya in the Trincomalee district on Saturday.

"One Tiger was killed and his body was recovered by the police together with explosives he was carrying to blow up the exchange," said an official in Trincomalee, 257 kilometres (160 miles) north-east of here.

Two days earlier, a policeman was killed while defending another telephone exchange in the same district, officials said adding that the Tigers had stepped up attacks against basic infrastructure in the region.

Nicaraguan Vote Opens with Downpour Expected to Hurt Turnout



ORTEGA

MANAGUA, NICARAGUA (AFP) - Heavy rains are expected to hurt turnout yesterday in Nicaragua's presidential race pitting conservative coffee grower Arnoldo Aleman against Daniel Ortega, a former leftist rebel and ex-president.

Polls opened at 7:00 a.m.

Japanese Teenager Commits 'Hara-kiri' in Front of 200 People

TOKYO, JAPAN (AFP) - A 16-year-old Japanese boy committed ritual "Hara-kiri" yesterday by disemboweling himself with a sword at a railway station, police said.

A spokesman for the Fukushima Prefectural Police Department said the boy was rushed to hospital but later died from loss of blood.



ALEMAN

(13:00 GMT) with no incidents immediately reported.

Despite conciliatory rhetoric from the top candidates, both Ortega's supporters and those of rightist Aleman of the Liberal Alliance fear that if their candidate doesn't win, old scores might be settled with violence.

More Than 110,000 Hutu Refugees Flee Zaire Camps

BUJUMBURA, BURUNDI (AFP) - More than 110,000 terrified Hutu refugees from Burundi and Rwanda have fled fighting in the Uvira region in eastern Zaire since Tuesday, humanitarian officials said yesterday.

Panic has swept through several camps in the area, where about 220,000 refugees from Rwanda and Burundi had been sheltering, and most people were heading north to escape the violence.

Clashes flared yesterday morning at Brwegem, about 100 kilometres (60 miles) north of Uvira, between Banyamwenge - ethnic Tutsis from Rwanda long resident in Zaire - and Zairean soldiers.

The mountains around Uvira have been the scene of bloody confrontations between Zairean security forces and Banyamwenge rebels since September.

البحر الأحمر

ortunity Africa

Ruling Party Leads Japan Vote, But Struggles to Get Majority

TOKYO, JAPAN (AFP) - Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) won an increased number of seats in yesterday's general election but it was unclear if it would be able to form a majority government, exit polls showed.

Turnout appeared to have fallen to a post-war low of about 59 percent, down from 67.26 percent at the last election in 1993, reports said before the official figure was given.

A Japan Broadcasting Corp. (NHK) poll of 310,000 voters said Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto's party would win between 232 and 254 seats in the new 500-seat lower house. It had 211 seats in the outgoing parliament of 511 seats.

"Our target was 235 seats. We feel we can probably achieve this target. If we can exceed 235 seats we should be able to re-elect Hashimoto as prime minister," LDP campaign chief Tsutomu Shirakawa said.

NHK said the opposition New Frontier Party led by Ichim Ozawa was likely to win between 139 and 159 seats, down from 160 seats.



TOKYO, JAPAN: Residents queue to cast their ballots for the general election at a polling station in Tokyo Oct. 20. General election voting started at more than 53,000 polling stations across the nation with a record number of candidates running for the low house under a new election system.

(AFP Photo)

The New Democratic Party, set up by dozens of lawmakers from the LDP's two junior partners in the outgoing coalition, would win between 48 and 62 seats compared against 52 in the old parliament, it added.

But other exit polls indicated that the LDP, which lost its majority in 1993 elections for the first time in 38 years, was unlikely to win a majority.

Asahi National Broadcasting exit polls showed the conservative party winning 231 seats with the New Frontier Party gaining 165 seats and the Democratic Party 51 seats.

Tokyo Broadcasting System (TBS) projected 234 seats for the LDP, 155 for the New Frontier Party and 53 for the Democratic Party.

Nippon Television Network (NTV) predicted 241 seats for the LDP, 156 seats for the New Frontier Party and 52 for the Democratic Party.

All of the polls indicated a major defeat for the left-wing Social Democratic Party (SDP) and a strong performance by the Japan Communist Party.

The World at a Glance



SIOPHON, CAMBODIA

The hardline Khmer Rouge leadership has sent up to 700 of its most battle-hardened guerrillas to guard the frontline of its headquarters in preparation for a massive attack by government troops, a recent defector said yesterday.

BEIJING, CHINA - Chinese officials have accused the European Union (EU) of discriminatory trade practices, saying it still regards China as a non-market economy, an official English language said yesterday.

SRINAGAR, INDIA - Four Muslim activists and two policemen were killed in a fierce gunbattle yesterday in Kashmir, and a police officer said fighting was still raging.

JAMMU, INDIA - The new chief minister of Kashmir yesterday asked a prominent Muslim separatist to migrate to Pakistan if he disputed the Himalayan state's accession to India.

DUSHANBE, TAJIKISTAN - A Russian officer serving on the Tajik-Afghan border was killed in an outlying region of the Tajik capital, the Interior Ministry said yesterday.

ROME, ITALY - Pope John Paul II appeared at his balcony at the Vatican for the traditional angelus prayer service yesterday, his first public appearance since his release from hospital five days ago.

NEW YORK, U.S.A. - A delta air lines plane skidded to the end of a runway at New York's Logan Airport while landing in heavy rain, officials said Saturday.

(DISPATCHES)

Heavy Rains Kill 51 in India, Thousands Homeless

NEW DELHI, INDIA (AFP) - At least 51 people have been killed and thousands left homeless in southern India after heavy rains sparked flash floods, domestic news agencies said yesterday.

Weather officials forecast the rain would continue for at least another two days.

Forty-one of the deaths occurred in the worst-hit coastal state of Andhra Pradesh, where army helicopters dropped food packets to those marooned in flooded villages, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said.

Lithuanians Head for Polls to Elect New Parliament

VILNIUS, LITHUANIA (AFP) - Lithuanian voters headed for the polls yesterday to elect a new parliament with the rightist opposition well-placed to defeat former Communists who have controlled the chamber since 1992.

Polling stations opened at 8:00 a.m. (05:00 GMT) and were to close at 10:00 p.m. (19:00 GMT). Some 2.6 million voters were due to choose between the 1,351 candidates from 24 parties and political groups vying for the 111 seats in the Lithuanian parliament, the Seimas.

The principal parties in the election to the Lithuanian Parliament are the former Communist Democratic Labor Party (LDDP), which has been in power since 1992, and the rightist opposition represented by Christian Democrats and the Fatherland Union of former independence leader Vytautas Landsbergis.

Up to 200,000 people were expected to join the march, which began at 1:30 p.m. (11:30 GMT), half an hour earlier than scheduled because of the crush of people still arriving.

The signal to begin the march was given by the parents of some of the children found dead on properties belonging to convicted child rapist Marc Dutroux.

Finland's 4.1 Million Voters Go to Polls, Low Turnout Expected

HELSINKI, FINLAND (AFP) - Finnish voters headed to the polls yesterday in rainy and foggy weather in the country's first European Union (EU) elections and in local elections.

A total of 4.1 million Finns are eligible, as well as about 2,500 citizens of other EU countries, to vote in Euro-elections and some 45,000 EU citizens and Scandinavians in the local elections.

The booths were opened at 9:00 a.m. (06:00 GMT) and will be closed at 8:00 p.m. (17:00 GMT). The final results will be available three hours later.

In all, 208 deputies from 15 political parties and electoral alliances are vying for the 16 seats in the Strasbourg Parliament.

When Finland joined the EU in January 1995, the 16 deputies were chosen by the Helsinki Parliament to reflect the parties' relative strength.

According to the latest polls, the two main parties in the right-left coalition government, the Social Democrats and the Conservatives, as well as the main opposition party, the Center Party, will win most of the seats.

The coalition has carried out a strongly pro-European policy since joining the European Union in 1995, with the apparent backing of much of the population, and last week Finland entered the Exchange Rate Mechanism (ERM).

However, the anti-European camp is gaining popularity and Euroskeptics - mainly in the Center Party and the former Communists of the left alliance - have done well in opinion polls.

Esko Seppanen, the left alliance's far-left candidate, is expected to garner some 10 percent of the votes after a campaign that has played on dissatisfaction among country dwellers opposed to the EU and angry over unemployment, which is currently at 16.7 percent.

Former Foreign Minister

the Strasbourg Parliament.

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Former Foreign Minister

Paavo Vayrynen, who opposed EU membership, is also likely to win a seat as a candidate from the Center Party.

The Finnish vote comes a week after Austria - which joined the EU at the same time - held its own elections for seats at the European Parliament. Support for EU membership has been much weaker in Austria, and the Far-Right Party of Joerg Haider, which ran on a virulent anti-EU platform, garnered some 27.6 percent of the vote, coming in third.

Demirel Says CIS-Turkish Cooperation Not Against Russia

ANKARA, TURKEY (AFP) - President Suleyman Demirel said yesterday that improved cooperation between Turkey and the Turkish-speaking former Soviet republics was not against Russia's interests.

"Our efforts to improve friendship and cooperation among the Turkish states are not against the interests of any other country," Demirel said in a clear reference to Russia.

"On the contrary, those efforts are for peace, stability and prosperity and in accordance with the

Boy Jumps to Death to Escape Monkeys

NEW DELHI, INDIA (AFP) - A 12-year-old boy jumped to his death from the terrace of a two-storey house here after he was attacked by seven monkeys, the police said yesterday.

The victim, identified as Kalu, was seriously injured after the fall at Khari Boli district on Saturday and died in hospital, a police spokesman said. The boy was sleeping when he was attacked.

Demirel and Presidents Islam Karimov of Uzbekistan, Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan, Geidar Aliyev of Azerbaijan, Saparmurad Niyazov of Turkmenistan and Askar Akayev of Kyrgyzstan are expected to take part in today's meeting.

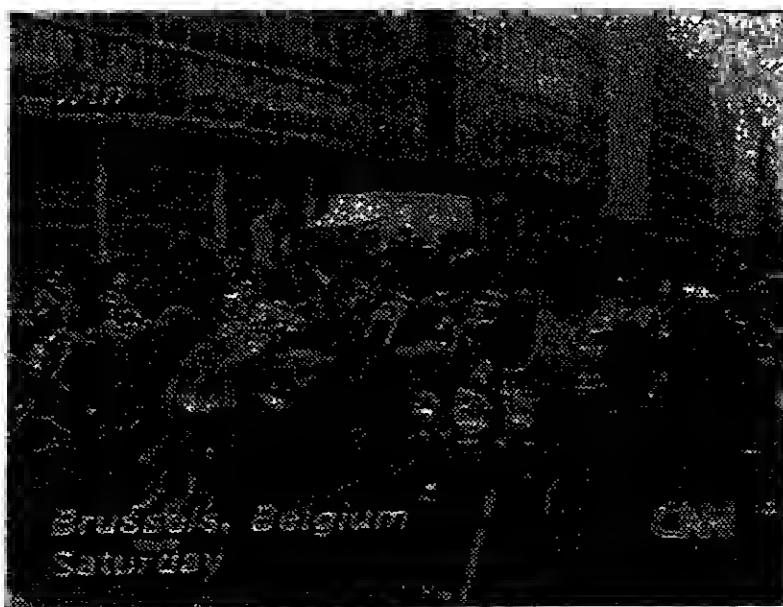
The presidents of the six states have met three times - twice in Ankara and once in the Kyrgyz capital of Bishkek - since 1992. Each time Russian officials have expressed concerns, saying regional cooperation should not be based "solely on ethnic and linguistic affinities."

Belgians in Silent Protest Over Lost Children Case

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (AFP) - Tens of thousands of people marched through Brussels yesterday in a silent protest at the Belgian justice system's handling of the horrific child sex, kidnapping and murder case that has shocked the nation for the past three months.

Up to 200,000 people were expected to join the march, which began at 1:30 p.m. (11:30 GMT), half an hour earlier than scheduled because of the crush of people still arriving.

The signal to begin the march was given by the parents of some of the children found dead on properties belonging to convicted child rapist Marc Dutroux.



"You are the warmth of our country," Pol Marchal, father of the murdered An Marchal, told a crowd of around 30,000 people gathered on the Place Rogier outside the main railway station.

Jean-Denis Lejeune, father of eight-year-old Julie whose body was found at one of Dutroux's homes, told the protesters: "I have just received a message from Julie: She is very proud of you."

The crowd applauded as Nabila Benaissa, sister of another missing girl, Loubna Benaissa, told them: "We had a little bird who was nine and a half and who has left the nest, and since then we have been waiting for her."

IRAN'S ORIGINAL HOUSE OF AUTHENTIC JAPANESE CUISINE

Japanese Restaurant
No. 30 Shahid Kodami (Bijan St.)
Vanak Sq., Tehran
Tel: 8773735 & 8776301
LUNCH 12:00-15:00 DINNER 18:30-23:00

Australia Wins Team Title

KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA (AP) - Sarah Fitzgerald and Liz Irving rallied Australia after an opening-match loss to beat England 2-1 and claim the team at the Women's World Open for the third straight year.

Casey Jackman gave England the lead with a 9-3, 4-9, 5-9, 9-7, 9-7 victory over Michelle Martin, but Fitzgerald, who won the singles title last week, evened the match with a 9-0, 9-1, 9-3 win over Linda Charman.

Irving sealed the victory, beating Fiona Geaves 9-4, 9-4, 10-8 in 31 minutes.

Sports Highlights

Olympic Bid Reviewers Close Visit to Rome

ROME (AP) - A team reviewing bids for the 2004 Summer Olympics wrapped up work in Rome on Saturday, saying they were impressed with the city's preparations but warned the process is still in its early stages.

"Imagine yourself in a marathon race. You might feel you're close to the finish line when the committee leaves but let me tell you, you have not even left the stadium," said the head of the evaluation team, German lawyer Thomas Bach.

Rome was the committee's fifth stop of an inspection tour of 11 candidate cities.

Bach carefully avoided noting any possible problems affecting the bid by Rome, which hosted the 1960 Summer Games.

But he said the team was met by well-prepared city officials and was impressed with the thorough planning of possible future Olympic sites. Rome demonstrates strong cooperation of all groups involved in preparing for the "toughest of all Olympic competitions", the bidding process, he added.

Bach noted the committee's visit to Stockholm, where some protests were held against the bid of the Swedish capital.

Although not confirmed at the news conference, the Italian capital is widely seen as one of the top contenders for the 2004 Games.

But factors potentially working against Rome's bid are infrastructure problems such as frequent traffic jams and a limited public transit system.

Rome hopes to upgrade its transportation network for 2000, when millennium celebrations and the holy year declared by the Vatican are expected to draw some 20 million visitors.

The Evaluation Committee's worldwide tour is scheduled to end Dec. 11 in Cape Town, South Africa.

Els Takes 6-Hole Halfway Lead over Brooks

VIRGINIA WATER, ENGLAND (AP) - Defending champion Ernie Els, who overcame a six-hole, halfway deficit to beat Steve Stricker in the second round, went six ahead of PGA titlist Mark Brooks after 18 holes of their World Match play semifinal Saturday.

Aiming to become the first player to win the title three years in a row, the South African birdied the fourth to go ahead and steadily built up his lead as the American continually found bunkers.

Brooks bogeyed three in a row at seven, eight and nine, forced to hit out of greenside bunkers at eight and nine as Els went three up at the turn.

There was another disaster for Brooks at the 441-yard 13th, where he drove into the trees, hit a tree with his second shot and then splashed into a bunker with a 3-wood. He conceded the hole and Els went four ahead.

The former U.S. Open titlist then birdied three of the last four holes to stretch his lead to six. At the 17th, the longest hole on the course at 571 yards, he landed his third shot only a foot from the hole and his approach to the last, another par 5, was five feet and he rolled it in for another four.

The other semifinal between British Open champion Tom Lehman and Vijay Singh was level after 18.

Singh, who overwhelmed U.S. Open titlist Steve Jones 9 and 8 in Friday's second round, had the lead after a birdie at the third.



Ernie Els of South Africa

IRAN NEWS

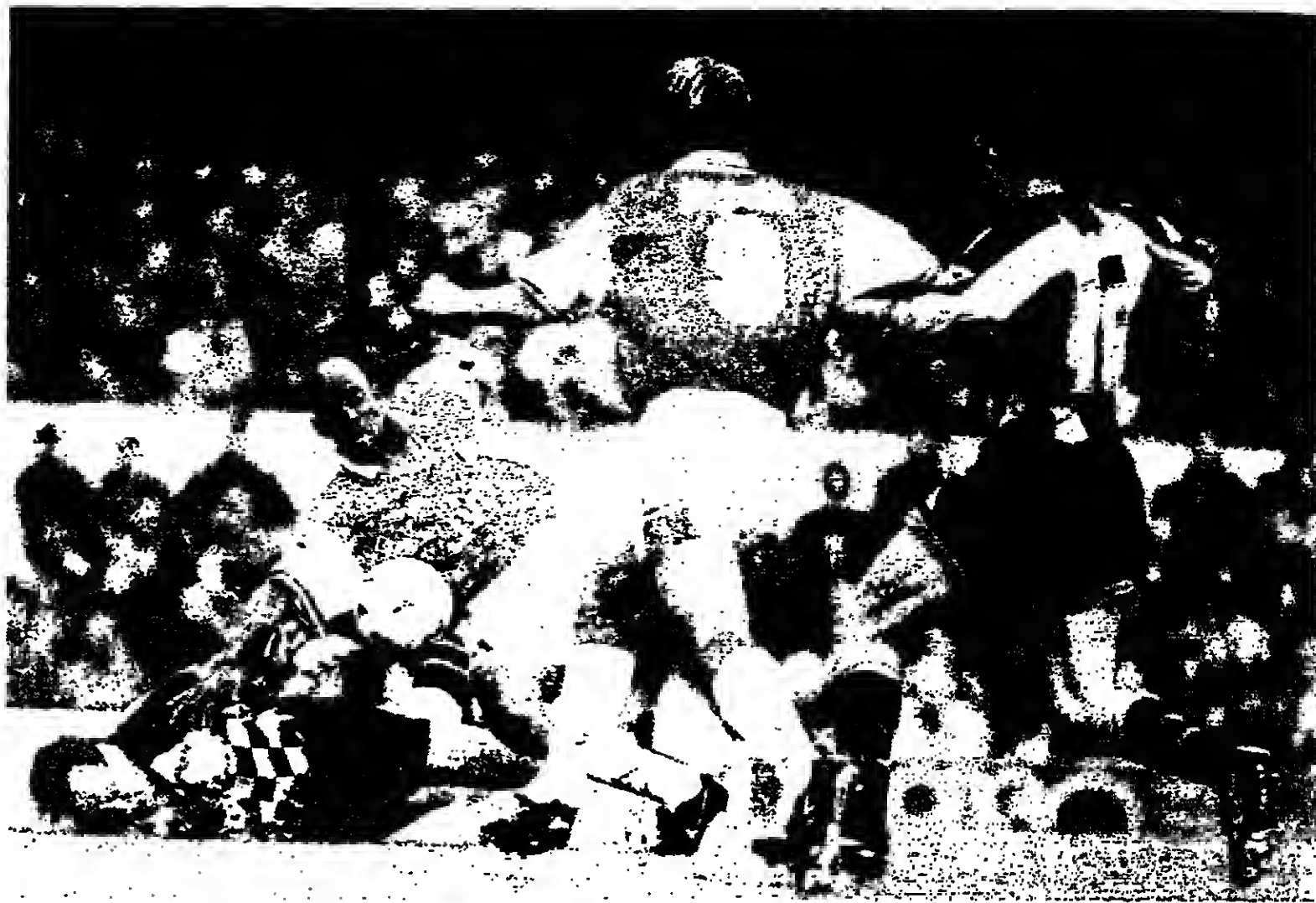
SPORTS

Doochan and Criville Fume After Final Lap Crash

SYDNEY (AFP) - World champion Michael Doochan and Alex Criville crashed on the final lap of the Australian Grand Prix 500cc race Sunday gifting Loris Capirossi his first win of the season in the final race. A stunned Capirossi accelerated his Yamaha to victory leaving Honda teammates Doochan, who sealed his third straight world title two weeks earlier, and Criville fuming at each other on the Eastern Creek Track. Doochan had been staying off a Criville challenge when the Spaniard's front wheel hit Doochan's back tire and both went flying out of contention.

VOL. III No. 583 TEHRAN Price 200 Rials

Monday October 21, 1996, Mehr 30, 1375, Jomada II 8, 1417



LONDON, ENGLAND: Coventry City goalkeeper Steve Ogrizovic (L) comes under pressure from Arsenal's Ian Wright during their Premiership match at Highbury. The match ended in a scoreless draw.

(AFP Photo)

Arsenal Reach Premiership Summit

LONDON (AFP) - Arsenal reached the summit of the Premiership table with no goals but incident aplenty against Coventry at Highbury on Saturday with new manager Arsene Wenger admitting: "I did not even know we were top."

In the South London Derby, Wimbledon scorched Chelsea 4-2 at Stamford Bridge to move into second place on goal difference.

With Newcastle playing Manchester United and Liverpool playing Everton yesterday Arsenal's reign is likely to be short lived.

In spite of going top for the first time in four years, the match at Highbury was marred by Steve Ogrizovic accusing Ian Wright of breaking his nose.

Coventry keeper Ogrizovic, who was carried away with a bloodied face, said: "Ian Wright knows in his heart of hearts what he's done and I know what he's done."

"I was on the ground and he blatantly knelt me in the nose. It is difficult for referees to see what is happening in situations like this but I just hope somebody at the club will take fan to task over this."

New Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger said: "Frankly, I did not see what happened. I know that Ian Wright had a chance to score and the goalkeeper went down."

Wenger said of the performance: "I am 50 percent pleased with the team. They showed a great willingness to go forward and a good-quality of spirit."

"There was a feeling it just wasn't going to happen for us to-

day and we lost patience with keeping the ball on the ground and became desperate to put in long crosses to the box.

"We had some chances but we did not catch them and Coventry worked hard to make things difficult for us."

Coventry manager Ron Atkinson said: "We knew we would have to come here and battle because Arsenal are top of the League and playing well. I'm happy because it was Arsenal's first blank here this season."

Wimbledon's 4-2 win over Chelsea at Stamford Bridge left manager Joe Kinnear with a broad smile: "I think we frightened them to death today and the kids of mine are getting better and better as the weeks go by."

"Who knows how long we can keep it going and while we know there are Banana skins around the corner we're going to enjoy it while it lasts."

"We've now won seven and the next target is eight wins out of eight and I think only Manchester United have done that."

Chelsea boss Ruud Gullit, who put himself on in the 55th minute in a bid to bolster Chelsea's faltering attack, said: "Football at this level is about the small details and today we just weren't very good in those areas."

Added Gullit: "We had most of the game but lost to at least three ridiculous goals."

"We were sloppy at the back and I'll make sure that the guys see a video of the goals to see if we can't correct things."

Wimbledon captain Vinnie Jones added: "The spirit in camp

is better than it has ever been. We've got to do the things we were good at and as long as we keep doing them we're a match for any team in the country."

Bryan Robson slammed his players for surrendering 3-0 at home to Tottenham.

"That's our worst of the season. Tottenham gave us a lesson. That was a really poor performance. We started off quite well, passed the ball okay and were looking comfortable."

"Then we gave two goals away in a couple of minutes and just went to pieces. The fans deserve better when we are getting 30,000 sell-outs."

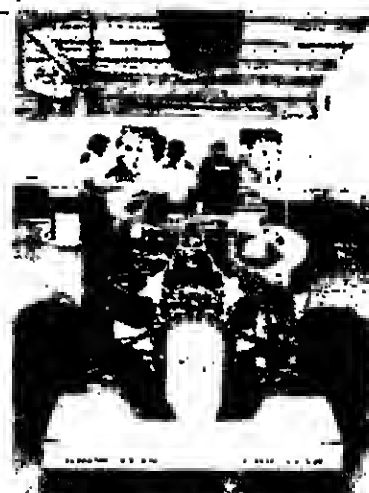
Tottenham manager Gerry Francis explained that careful planning had brought the win: "We worked very hard on our tactics just as we did last year because Boro do play differently."

"Once again that has paid dividends and the scoreline reflects the game."

Leeds manager George Graham was deeply critical after their 2-0 defeat at Aston Villa, he said: "Without doubt that's the worst we've performed since I came to Leeds."

"What areas were we poor in? I would say at the back, in mid-field and up front. There is no question that we need new blood."

Villa Manager Brian Little was delighted to have ended a run of seven matches without a win: "Some people may have thought we've been a bit complacent, but it's been more to do with a lack of confidence and as the game went on we got better."



Ralf Schumacher, Youngest Formula Nippon Champion

FUJI SPEEDWAY, JAPAN (AFP) - Ralf Schumacher, younger brother of German double world champion Michael Schumacher, became the youngest Formula Nippon auto racing overall champion at the age of 21 here Sunday.

Schumacher had a two point lead over Japan's Hisataka Hattori and nine points over Kazuyoshi Hoshino going into the final leg of the 10-round Series Sunday.

Although forced to abandon the race on the third lap at the 4.47-kilometre (2.8 mile) Fuji Speedway Circuit, Schumacher had the fortune to clinch the title as his nearest rivals also had to retire from the race.

It was the first time a rookie has been overall champion of the Formula Nippon, formerly called F3000, in its 24-year history.

Schumacher, the only driver who won three races in the Japanese series this season, will make his Formula One debut next year after securing a three-year contract with the Jordan-Peugeot team.

Saudi Arabia Foreign Work

Asian Development Help Poor in B...

Aerox Fract... Stock...

کتابخانه

REPORT

U.S. Cancels Supercomputer Purchase From NEC

TOKYO (AFP) - A U.S. government agency has notified NEC Corp. of its plan to scrap a tentative accord to buy supercomputers from the Japanese company which has been embroiled in a dumping dispute, a report said Sunday.

The cancellation is seen here as retaliation for NEC's complaint filed last week in a U.S. federal court seeking suspension of the anti-dumping investigation into its supercomputers sale to the U.S. National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR), the Mainichi Shimbun said.

The National Science Foundation, NCAR's funding body, has

issued the informal notice on the cancellation, with the formal announcement on the decision expected to come soon, the daily said without specifying sources.

NEC officials were not immediately available for comment.

NCAR agreed to buy the computers from NEC in May. But the National Science Foundation said the deal was contingent on NCAR demonstrating that the computers had not been "dumped."

The dispute was triggered by a complaint lodged by U.S. Manufacturer Cmy Research Inc. in July with both the U.S. Commerce Department and the International Trade Commission.

Saudi Arabia to Reduce Foreign Work Force

RIYADH, SAUDI ARABIA (AP) - Saudi Arabia will cut back on work permits issued to foreigners and will not allow them to work in 14 job categories, the labor ministry announced Saturday.

The move comes as part of an ambitious Saudi scheme to create over 600,000 new jobs for Saudis by the year 2000.

The ministry will not renew contracts or issue work permits for 14 jobs, including security guards, money changers and all insurance-related jobs.

The ministry announced that another 14 job categories would be renewable for one more year after which they would only be open to Saudis. These include data processors, typists, telephone operators and money collectors.

The move will mainly affect Egyptians, who are the largest contingent of the 4 million for-

cigners who work in this vast, oil-rich kingdom.

It was the latest in a number of measures Saudi authorities have taken to reduce the country's dependence on foreigners and increase the number of Saudis in the private sector.

Under the Saudi labor law, companies who do not raise the proportion of Saudi employees by 5 percent a year are fined and lose the chance of bidding on government contracts.

King Fahd said last week that the country must make way for its new graduates. Around 167,000 Saudis are expected to graduate before the year 2000.

Remittances from foreign laborers are also a drain on the country's economy. Last year foreign workers sent 62 billion riyals (\$16.5 billion) abroad.

Asian Development Bank to Help Poor in Bangladesh

DHAKA, BANGLADESH (AP) - The Asian Development Bank will loan Bangladesh \$90 million next year to create business and health care facilities for the urban poor, an official said Saturday.

The ADB already has provided \$4.7 billion to Bangladesh to build infrastructure in rural areas, said Bhanupol Borayangura, the bank's chief in Dhaka.

More than 48 percent of Bangladesh's 120 million people are poor and can't afford enough food. Nearly 80 percent of the country's population lives in villages.

The ADB loan will be disbursed by the Bangladesh Bank, the Central Bank, to both government and voluntary agencies to help the poor.

Nat'l Assembly Winds Up Budget Debate

PARIS (AFP) - The National Assembly on Saturday wound up debate on France's 1997 budget, anticipating a government deficit of 284.313 billion francs (\$54.56 billion).

That is 600 million francs down from the total forecast deficit put forth by Prime Minister Alain Juppe's government when lawmakers began to discuss the coming year's revenues.

But it is still above the public-deficit threshold for joining the single European currency in January 1999 - a French government priority - set at three percent of gross domestic product.

The National Assembly is to vote on the proposed budget on Tuesday, after which the senate begins its debate.

Earlier the government gave its commitment that it would act "as soon as possible" to withdraw a provisional two point increase in France's value added (sales) tax to 20.6 percent, implemented last year.

Xerox Profits Disappoint, Send Stock Plunging

NEW YORK (AP) - Xerox Corp. stunned Wall Street by reporting its third-quarter profits got jammed on slack sales of black-and-white copiers. The news sent the company's stock plunging nearly 15 percent.

America's largest copier company on Friday blamed unexpectedly slow sales in overseas markets, particularly in Brazil and

Europe, despite an unusually steep investment to sell the copiers.

Xerox earned \$250 million, or 71 cents per share, in the three months ended Sept. 30, compared with \$236 million, or 68 cents per share, a year ago when it had a \$20 million writeoff for its insurance unit.

Arab Bourses Blamed for Capital Flight

ABU DHABI (AFP) - Arab stock markets have remained among the weakest bourses in the world and this has scared off regional investors and contributed to a steady capital flight, experts said on Saturday.

Although several Arab nations have sought to develop their bourses within overall economic reforms, their markets still lack an adequate infrastructure and their capital is less than one-third of Taiwan's market capitalization.

"We cannot consider the stock markets in the Arab world as effective instruments in mobilizing financial resources," said Ahmed Abdul Latif, chairman of the Arab Banking Corporation (ABC), the biggest Arab bank.

"As we see, the bourses in some Arab countries have remained undeveloped. In other members, they failed to deal with the large financial surpluses, leading to the transfer of such surpluses to abroad, mainly foreign states."

Abdul Latif, writing in the UAE economic weekly *Emirates Today*, said the capitalization of 17 Arab markets stood at around \$80 billion while in other developing nations, it totalled \$247 billion in Taiwan, \$192 billion in South Korea and \$189 billion in Brazil.

Turnover is also far lower than those markets as governments have a large ownership in traded shares and Arabs prefer to invest in banks.

"The investment awareness is primitive among the majority of Arab citizens as they tend to keep their assets as liquidity. Activity in the Arab markets is also confined to trading of shares and bonds," Abdul Latif said.



"The Arab markets are also suffering from organizational deficiencies and the absence of specialized financial institutions, consultancy services, brokerage houses, investment firms and market-makers."

Despite the return of billions of dollars to the Arab region over the past few years because of economic reforms, the Arab League's 22 members still have more than \$600 billion in overseas investment, according to bankers.

The assets are concentrated in the West in stocks and development bonds, real estate and bank deposits.

Arab officials have often called for the repatriation of part of those funds to finance reforms aimed at tackling long-standing economic problems.

But investors argue the Arab market is relatively small and incentives are still insufficient. They also cite security reasons in some Arab countries.

"There is no doubt the poor performance of the stock markets in the Arab world is one of the key factors for the accumulation of Arab funds abroad," said Zuhair Kaswani, a leading United Arab Emirates stockbroker.

Kohl Wants Unemployment Halved by 2000



HELMUT KOHL
HANOVER, GERMANY (AFP) - German Chancellor Helmut Kohl said in an interview published Saturday that he aims to halve unemployment currently running at nine percent by 2000.

As social tensions continue to run high in Germany - in particular over planned cuts to sickness benefits - Kohl revived the idea of a "pact for jobs," which was accepted at the beginning of the year by employers and unions based on a moderation of salary increases in exchange for job creation.

Some employers have since criticized the pact.

"This goal (to halve unemployment by 2000) was set by employers and unions at a meeting at the chancellery and I see no reason to change it whatever happens," Kohl said in the interview with the *Hannoverscher Allgemeine Zeitung*.

He noted that since his election in 1982, "three million new jobs have been created in the Laender (states) in the west."

"If everybody rolls up their sleeves, why shouldn't that work again?" Kohl said.

"Perspectives for 1997 are not bad," Kohl continued. "I estimate that we can reckon next year on an economic growth rate of 2.5 percent."

He added he was keen to boost part-time work "and not just for women."

Four million people - nine percent of the workforce - are currently unemployed in Germany.

On Friday, the head of the government of Saxony, Kurt Biedenkopf of the Christian Democratic

Union (CDU), said that halving unemployment by 2000 was impossible.

He was speaking after a meeting of a planning committee of officials from Saxony and Bavaria looking at long-term perspectives for the employment market, social security and retirement policy.

Kohl's comments came two days before his CDU Party was due to hold its annual conference here at which he is due to be reconfirmed as CDU president. The conference will also focus on government fiscal policy.

Sudan to Open Conf. on Rescuing Crumbling Economy

KHARTOUM, SUDAN (Dispatches) - Hundreds of economists will meet in Sudan on Monday to find ways to rescue an economy that is making life more miserable in a country already one of Africa's poorest.

The conference is the second such meeting since the Islamic government came to power in 1989. It is expected to draw 600 Sudanese and foreign experts.

"This conference has to come up with recommendations that will lead the state in its future plans and programs," said Babiker al-Tout, a member of parliament helping direct the meeting.

The decision to convene the conference is a sign of the government's concern for an ailing econ-

omy. A reduction in subsidies and rising inflation has led to workers' protests, and the 13-year civil war has added further strain.

The price of the Sudanese pound has fallen from 838 to the dollar to 1,421 over the past year.

Tout told Sudanese radio that among the topics at the three-day conference will be economic reform and investment, increasing productivity and combating inflation.

The first conference, convened in 1989, recommended a free market economy, a reduction in subsidies and the privatization of state-owned companies - all proposals the government has undertaken to varying degrees of success.

Economic Digest

RIYADH - Saudi Amnia al-Azizia-Panda United Inc., a supermarket chain, has posted a net profit of 44.2 million riyals (\$11.7 million) in the first nine months of 1996, a 2 percent increase from last year's 43.5 million (\$11.6 million).

The company said Saturday that overall sales in the period increased 31 percent to 450 million riyals (\$120 million) from 344 million riyals (\$91.7 million) in the same period of 1995.

Saudi Prince al-Waleed bin Talal owns the majority of the company, which is listed on the Saudi stock market.

Total assets of Al-Azizia-Panda stood at 1.18 billion riyals (\$314 million) at the end of September 1996, up by 3 percent from 1.15 billion (\$306 million) last year.

The company, which has 25 supermarkets in the desert kingdom, is planning to open branches this year in other areas in Riyadh and the eastern city of Dammam.

DUBAI - Westlb, Germany's third largest banking group, opened its first representative office in Dubai Saturday.

The bank's managing board member Hans-Peter Sachtel said the office, which is also the first in the Middle East, will also provide a wide range of products and services to corporate clients and high net worth private investors throughout the region.

Westlb, with total assets in 1995 of 428.6 billion marks (\$278 billion), has offices and branches in 36 countries.

It is the second German bank to open an office in Dubai after Dresdner Bank, which opened an office last year.

DOHA - Qatar Industrial Investment Bank is expected to begin operating in the first quarter of next year, the bank's chairman said Saturday.

Sheik Abdullah bin Saud Al-Thani said the bank, which has a capital of 200 million riyals (\$55 million), aims at enhancing industrial development in Qatar and financing new and existing projects.

The bank also plans to boost gross domestic product through providing medium and long term loans.

RIYADH - The number of aluminum factories in the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council states currently stands at 405 factories with investments worth \$4.3 billion, a study said Saturday.

The study, prepared by the Saudi House for Consulting Services, said output by these factories is expected to reach 1.8 million tons within the next few years, following the completion of planned projects in Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

It said the (P)GCC countries, which also include Oman, Kuwait and Bahrain, have 20 projects producing unprocessed aluminum with an output of 301,000 tons and investments totaling \$612 million.

KUWAIT - The market value of the government's stake in companies listed on the Kuwait Stock Exchange is 1 billion dinars (\$3.33 billion), a senior official said Friday.

Ali Al-Bader, the head of Kuwait Investment Authority, the agency which runs the government's investments, told the Kuwait news agency the KIA still owned 10 percent or more of 20 listed companies.

Today in History

1913 - Royalist uprising in Portugal fails.

1916 - Austria's premier, Count Carl Sturgk, is assassinated.

1938 - Japanese troops take Canton in China.

1945 - Women vote for first time in France.

1947 - U.N. General Assembly asks Greece and Balkan powers to settle differences peacefully.

1951 - President Gamal Abdel Nasser confiscates property of wealthy Egyptians.

1963 - Cuba's Premier Fidel Castro asks immediate end of United States' economic blockade of Cuba.

1969 - Army coup in Somalia follows assassination of President Shermarke. Willy Brandt becomes first social democratic chancellor in West Germany's 20 year history.

1971 - North Vietnam's Premier Phan Van Dong says his government is ready to accept ceasefire as first step toward settlement of Vietnam War.

1989 - Honduran jet with 146 people aboard breaks apart in flight and crashes, killing at least 120 people.

Beware of Bites from Rabid Bats

BY DR. ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

QUESTION: No I do not have bats in my belfry, but I suspect I have them in my home. We caught a glimpse of one as it flew out of the window, and oow we fear its return.

Just what are we supposed to do if the thing returns? Is it dangerous? We have visions of Dracula dancing in our heads.

ANSWER: If the visitor was just a momentary guest, you were well rid of it. It isn't Dracula-type blood-sucking that you had to fear, but rabies. Although most bats are not rabid, a bite from a rabid bat can be fatal. The majority of recent human deaths from rabies in the United States occurred as the result of the bite of a rabid bat.

The important factor is whether the bat had a chance to come in contact with any people or pets in your house. If not, its departure was without significance. When a bat may have had the opportunity to bite or brush

sleeping individuals, however, it is better to catch the bat than to allow it to escape.

Bats have tiny, very sharp teeth, and bites sometimes go undetected. Many health departments test for the presence of rabies in bats that have come in contact with humans or pets. When no infection is found, no rabies treatment is necessary. However, if the bat has escaped after a possible contact, exposed individuals should receive rabies treatment as soon as possible.

The safest manner of capturing a bat in your home is to let a professional do the job. Check your telephone yellow pages for a licensed wildlife trapper. If you must do the job yourself, wear gloves and other clothing that can protect you. Use a can or wastebasket to cover the bat, slide a piece of cardboard beneath the can, and then call your health department. Testing the bat can spare you and your family from unnecessary rabies shots.

QUESTION: It was a funny and somewhat sad sight to behold. Six of us, all past retirement age, were sitting around the dinner table, when my wife's soft-spoken remark resulted in three of us putting a hand up to our ear and asking "What?" Are we something special, or is this a present from our advancing years?

ANSWER: You may well be a special group, but your "whats" are not really much out of the ordinary. Research studies show that about one in three Americans 65 years or older experiences some sort of hearing impairment (defined here as deafness in one or both ears, or any other trouble that interferes with hearing).

The statistics are quite revealing. In men, from the ages of 65 to 74, almost 30 percent report some hearing loss, and the number grows to 58 percent in youngsters over the age of 85. Women seem to be a bit better off, as only 17.5 percent in the 65 to 74 age group have difficulty.

HEALTH CAPSULES®

by Michael A. Pettit, M.D.

IS THERE ANY DANGER IF YOUR CHILD CHEWS ON THE LEAVES OF HOUSE PLANTS?

YES. THE LEAVES OF PHILODENDRON AND DIEFFENBACHIA CAN CAUSE SEVERE MOUTH PAIN AND TONGUE SWELLING IF CHEWED.

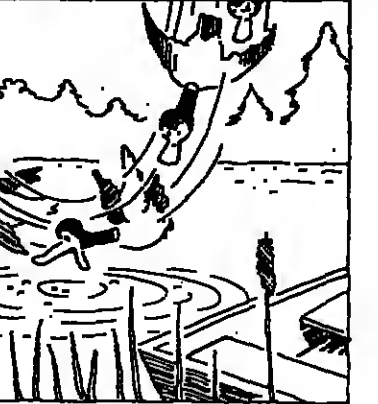
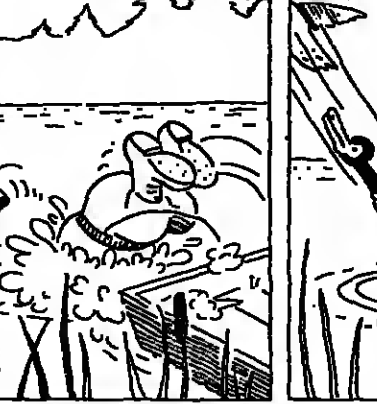
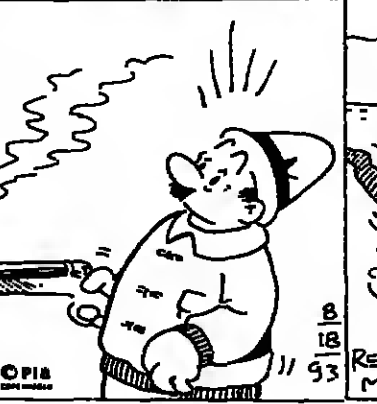
Health Capsules is not intended to be a diagnostic device.

DENNIS THE MENACE

by HANK KETCHAM



"MY MOM IS A GOOD DRIVER. WHEN THE STREET TURNS, SHE TURNS, TOO."



CORNUCOPIA

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

IMCUS

RIGAN

CLOIPY

ENSCOD

Answer: TO THE

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THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Arghon

I hope it comes out tall and fluffy

SHE HOPED HER BREAD WOULD DO THIS IN THE CONTEST.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: TO THE

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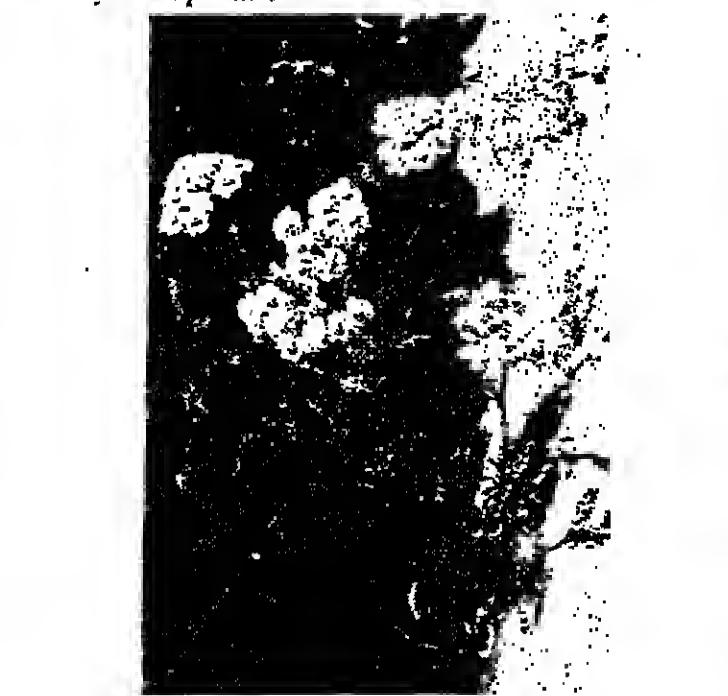
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Researchers Find Molecular Link Between Tobacco Smoke, Lung Cancer

WASHINGTON (AP) - Researchers have found parts of a key gene in human lung cells that are damaged by tobacco smoke, a finding which they say establishes a specific molecular link between smoking and lung cancer.

In a study to be published in the journal Science, researchers at the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston report that a tobacco carcinogen called BPDE links up with three molecular sites on the P53 gene - a gene that is critical in the development of cancer.

"In essence, our study provides a direct link between a defined cigarette-smoke carcinogen and human cancer mutations," Moon-Shon Tang, the lead author of the study, said in a statement.

A number of earlier studies have linked BPDE from cigarette smoke to lung cancer. Earlier studies

also have shown that in most lung cancer the P53 gene is damaged or altered at points in the gene structure that Tang called "hotspots."

In the new study, researchers show that BPDE binds, or joins, the P53 gene at exactly those same "hotspots."

Though the carcinogen has long been linked to lung cancer, Tang said, "until now we did not know it binds with the spots on the P53 gene that are associated with lung cancer."

The "hotspots" on the gene also are associated with other types of cancer.

P53 is a gene that monitors the accuracy of DNA copying during cell division. If the gene detects abnormal DNA, it stops the cell division or causes the cell to kill itself. If P53 is damaged, inactivated or absent, however, this guardian function is destroyed. A cell with abnormal DNA may then divide without restraint, a process that can lead to cancer.

A chemical called Benzo(A)Pyrene, or BP, is a component of cigarette smoke that has long been associated with lung cancer. When BP is taken into the lungs, such as when a smoker inhales, the chemical changes to Benzo(A)Pyrene Diol Epoxide, or BPDE. It is this chemical that damages the P53, the researchers found.

Tang and his team found the damaged sites in the P53 gene by exposing cultured human cells to BPDE and then mapping the locations where the carcinogen caused damage. When the damaged sites were analyzed, the authors report, they recognized the "coincidence" that P53 sites that are mutated in lung cancer are exactly the same "hotspots" on P53 that bind with BPDE.

This, the study says, "suggests that Benzo(A)Pyrene... or structurally related compounds are involved in transformation of human lung tissue."

Human activity is endangering

MONTREAL (AFP) - Protection of the oceans should be a priority in implementing a global treaty on biodiversity, three world environmental groups said recently in a report to the International Union for Conservation of Nature Congress.

Human activity is endangering

Sexually Transmitted Diseases Dominate

List of U.S. Infectious Diseases

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Sexually transmitted diseases account for 87 percent of infectious diseases reported in the United States last year, says a report by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) released earlier.

Of the 10 most commonly reported infectious diseases,

chlamydia, gonorrhea and AIDS topped the list followed by syphilis in the eighth spot and hepatitis B in 10th place.

The CDC says that while chlamydia is more common among women, AIDS is four times more common among men.

Environment Conference Calls for Protection of Oceans

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ocean and coastal resources, according to the report from the World Wildlife Fund, Center for International Environmental Law and the IUCN.

The report calls for eight specific measures including the creation of marine protection zones and the prevention or eradication of nuisance species.

"One important step that each coastal country must take is to sign the relevant international agreements," said David Downes of the Center for International Environmental Law.

The conference that opened recently in Montreal is the largest international gathering of its kind since the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, organizers said, with some 2,500 delegates from 130 different countries.

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Transcendental Meditation, Clergy Come to Workplace to Fight Stress

WASHINGTON (AFP) - An increasing number of U.S. companies are turning to transcendental meditation and clergy to help reduce employee stress, which statistics show continues to rise.

Some 40 percent of U.S. companies now offer some method of stress reduction to their employees, up from 27 percent in 1985, according to U.S. government figures.

And polls show workers need it. A 1995 survey by Chicago-based International Survey Research Corp. showed that 44 percent of employees said they were overworked, up from 37 percent in 1988.

One aspect of stress is job security: 46 percent of those surveyed said they worried about losing their jobs, up from 22 percent seven years earlier.

One survey indicates stress hit white-collar employees more than their blue-collar counterparts: the

Gallup Organization found 28 percent of white-collar workers said they were subject to daily stress at work, compared with 20 percent for blue-collar workers.

While many companies settle for handing out brochures on stress reduction, others have taken a more spiritual path as transcendental meditation and company chaplains are shown to help workers reduce tension.

Spiritual nurturing for workers can be expensive. A chaplain can cost some \$50,000 a year plus expenses, while meditation courses cost \$1,500 per employee; moreover, workers are generally encouraged to meditate or receive counseling on company time.

But companies using the methods say the benefits outweigh the hefty costs.

Three years after offering meditation courses to employees, chemical firm R.W. Montgomery recorded a 120 percent increase in

productivity, an 85 decline in absenteeism and a 70 percent drop in occupational injuries.

And the payoff has also markedly improved the bottom line: Montgomery's profits have surged by 520 percent in the past three years.

A study published in the August issue of the Journal of the American Heart Association about hypertension, showed that meditation reduces arterial tension significantly more than other types of relaxation exercises. Other studies show meditation can improve blood flow to muscles and reduce cholesterol.

Transcendental meditation is generally practiced twice a day for 20 minutes. Meditators sit with their eyes closed, listening to sounds that help free their spirits and relax their bodies.

Transcendental meditation has been used in the Hindu religion for hundreds of years, and was popu-

larized in the United States in the 1960s by the Maharishi Mahesh Yogi.

Marketplace Ministries Inc., suggests a different kind of spiritual guidance. The company places chaplains - mostly Evangelical Protestant, but also Rabbis and Buddhist Monks - with U.S. firms around the country.

The United Auto Workers Union hired five full-time chaplains and has 300 religious volunteers at plants of the United States' three top automakers.

Workers burdened with work- or family-related problems, including drug or alcohol abuse, now turn to these chaplains for guidance they may be lacking.

Official figures on the number of spiritual guides in the workplace are unavailable, but Reverend Diana Dale, president of the National Institute of Business and Industry Chaplains, estimates the number at 4,000.

Indian Expert Asks Residents to Fight Dengue, Fever Toll 215

NEW DELHI (AFP) - An Indian expert yesterday urged New Delhi's population to join the war against Dengue fever that has killed 215 people and affected nearly 5,000 others.

K.K. Dana, director of the National Institute of Communicable Diseases, said the city government and public should join hands to ensure that the steps taken to fight mosquitoes succeeded.

"The Aedes mosquito which causes Dengue is an indoor breeder thriving in clean, stagnant water, so the responsibility is greater on the people's side," he said.

He urged residents across the city of 10 million people to empty water from home coolers and change water in flower pots frequently.

At least 4,978 people have been hit in the Indian capital by an outbreak of Dengue fever, which can lead to death from hemorrhage and shock. Doctors say 215 people have died since August 29,

and fresh cases are reported every day.

Datta said the disease had taken an epidemic form. "The amount of efforts we are putting in (to fight it) are nothing short of epidemic proportions," he said.

He, however, asked people not to panic, and said fatalities had already dropped.

Datta's comments came a day after the Congress (I) Party of former Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao demanded the resignation of the city's Hindu Nationalist administration for failing to stop the spread of Dengue fever.

The city administration has also drawn flak from the judiciary. Health officials and doctors say the fever has turned into an epidemic because of the failure of municipal authorities to keep the city clean.

New Delhi, with innumerable open sewers and large piles of rubbish, is an ideal breeding ground for mosquitoes.

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Concerts of Traditional Persian Music

IRAN NEWS ART DESK

Concerts of traditional Persian music by the 'Neyriz' Traditional Musical Group will be conducted at Bahman Farhangsara on November 1st and 2nd.

The vocalist is Fazel Jamshidi and the concerts will be supervised by Ms. Maliheh Saeedi.

According to the Public Relations Office of Bahman Farhangsara, the seven-member musical group will play traditional musical instruments such as violin, tambour, and tambourine.

The performances will start at 7:00 p.m. at the Chaplin Hall Cinema of Bahman Farhangsara.

For ticket reservations call phone Nos. 5312306, 5312300, 5312301.

Keys for Better Understanding of Theater

IRAN NEWS ART DESK

Pursuing its policy of arranging scientific, cultural and social gatherings, Bahman Farhangsara will hold its 4th session on Wednesday Oct. 23.

According to the Public Relations Office of Bahman Farhangsara, the speaker at the 4th session is Tehran University Lecturer Ms. Zahedi who will talk on the keys for better understanding of theater.

St. Exupery Wins Bayeux Prize for War Correspondents

BAYEUX, FRANCE (AP) - Patrick de St. Exupery, a writer for the French daily Le Figaro who wrote about war-torn Afghanistan, won first prize Saturday in the Bayeux war correspondents' awards.

St. Exupery won the news category for an article entitled "Afghanistan: Voyage in a War-Devastated Country." The award carries a prize of 50,000 francs (\$10,000).

Olivier Weber from the weekly Le Point came in second for a story on Chechnya.

In the photo category, James Nachtwey of the United States won for his series, "Afghanistan: the Forgotten Country." Nachtwey, of the Magnum Agency, took the photographs while on assignment for Time magazine.

David C. Turnley, also of the United States, won second prize for his photo essay "The Dispossessed: Victims of the Bosnian Conflict." Turnley, of the Blackstar Agency, also was on assignment for Time.

In the TV news category, George Alaghia of the British Broadcasting Corp. won first prize for footage of the civil war in Liberia. Paul Davies, also of Britain, won for footage of the fall of Srebrenica.

The Bayeux prizes were first awarded in 1994 to recognize journalists who excel in perilous conditions.

Bayeux was one of the first towns liberated from Nazi occupation in the D-day invasion of Normandy.

After New York's Museum of Modern Art

Picasso Glows in Pared-Down Paris Show

Picasso only painted the people he loved and respected. At the Paris show there are portraits of composers Manuel De Falla, Igor Stravinsky and Erik Satie, and writers Max Jacob and Guillaume Apollinaire.

PARIS (AP) - In the world of multimillion dollar art extravaganzas, it's a rare day when critics say smaller is better, less is more. But that's the unexpected verdict handed down on the 144 carefully selected Picasso portraits on show that opened Friday at the Grand Palais, in the city where he came of age as an artist.

Despite Picasso's lifelong intimate connection to France, audiences here are getting a pared down version of "Picasso and Portraiture," the 221-work blockbuster that drew a half million visitors to New York's Museum of Modern Art earlier this year.

"From New York to Paris: Fewer Paintings, More Meaning," headlined the respected daily Le Monde in its Friday edition which devoted two full pages to the show touted as the most important cultural event of the season.

Critics, however, did note that MOMA had a 20-million franc (\$4 million) compared to Paris' 12.5 million francs (\$2.5 million) and a smaller exhibition space.

Nonetheless, French curator Helene Seckel, who organized the exhibition in collaboration with

MOMA's William Rubin, said reducing the scale of the Paris show was a deliberate "curatorial choice."

"Our point of departure was to tighten and intensify the demonstration and, at the same time, prevent viewers from being submerged by too many art works," she said.

From the earliest self-portraits to a haunting "Death Mask" drawn only a few months before his death in 1973, Picasso was obsessed with human forms.

His wives, his children, his friends and even his dealers were captured in the dizzyingly different styles he would embrace over a period of nearly 80 years. Many

of them he painted in the south of France or at his Montmartre atelier.

Francoise Gilot, his companion of 10 years and mother of Claude and Paloma, born in 1947 and 1949 respectively, said she posed only once for Picasso - when they barely knew each other. She turns up as a flower, a rock, in a chair - and even drawing - her aquiline nose and high cheekbones very much in evidence.

"Picasso hated having models hanging around the studio," Gilot told TV host Bernard Pivot. "Either they would talk and bore him, or they would simply ruin his concentration. He preferred working from photographs or from images in his mind."

For Gilot, the works capture the essence of the individual, not a likeness. More importantly, she said, the portraits evoke Picasso's feelings about the nature of their relationship.

On Jan. 21, 1939, Picasso did portraits of Marie-Therese Walter, the blond and voluptuous mother of Maya, and his new find, Dora Maar, lying down reading. Neither model posed.

"For Picasso, it's out with the old and in with the new," noted French art critic Ann Crémien. "Look at poor Marie-Therese - all curves in a blank room. Dora is stretched out on a red bed, angular, edgy, but nature is in bloom, resplendent with Picasso's newborn passion."

Right Portrait of Guillaume Apollinaire, 1916.

Left Dora Maar Seated, 1937



Unlike the New York show which juxtaposed the portraits with photographs of each model, the Paris show lets the portraits speak for themselves. The photographs are hung separately, in eloquent counterpoint to the art itself.

Despite its scaled down size, the Paris show boasts a masterpiece not shown in New York - a portrait of dealer Ambroise Vollard from 1910 on loan from Moscow's Pushkin Museum.

The work, featuring Vollard's heavy lids, strong chin and pouting lips penetrating through a cubist maze, completes a trio of cubist portraits (of dealers Daniel-Henry Kahnweiler and Wilhelm Uhde) not seen together since 1966.

Picasso only painted the people he loved and respected. There are portraits of composers Manuel De Falla, Igor Stravinsky and Erik Satie, and writers Max Jacob and Guillaume Apollinaire.



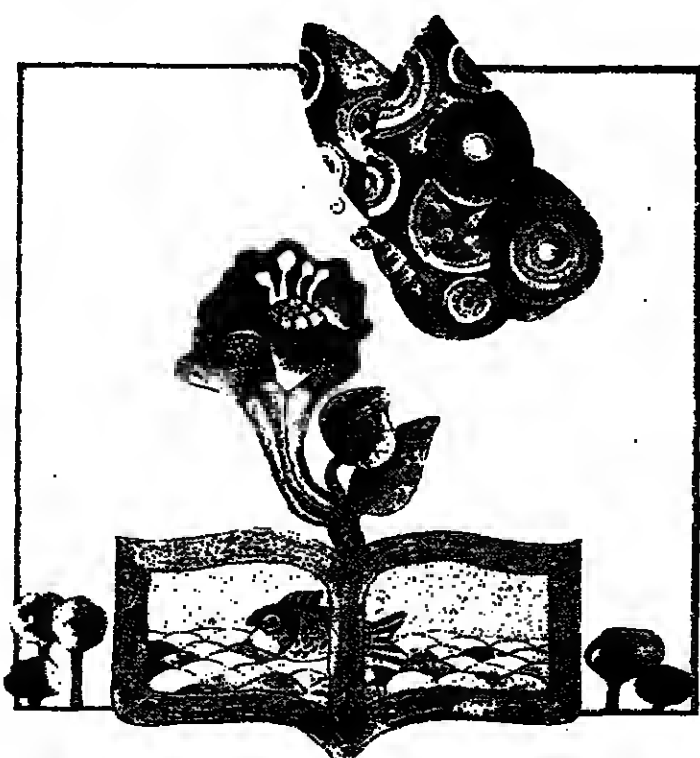
Festival of Books for Children and Young Adults

IRAN NEWS ART DESK

The 5th Festival of Books for Children and Young Adults will be held by the Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults from Oct. 22 - 29.

Over 1400 book titles have been surveyed by the festival jury and prizes will be awarded to the best book of fiction for children, best collection of poetry, best scientific book, best translated book, best illustrator and best publisher.

All interested people are requested to participate at the session.



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Mommy Cliques Make for Tense Strolls in Japanese Parks

TOKYO (AP) - It wasn't broken glass, a rusty jungle gym or the neighborhood drunk that made Kunie Kihara scared to go the park with her baby daughter.

"It was other mothers," she said. "I had seen people coming in groups, and I didn't want to find myself alone," said the 29-year-old mother, now surrounded at a Tokyo park by the same lively group of women who once frightened her away.

Like many young mothers in large Japanese cities, Mrs. Kihara found her stomach in knots when faced with her "park debut" - the first fearsome trip to a park dominated by sometimes-exclusive cliques of mothers.

The Japanese penchant for strong group identity and attention to detail turns even a visit to the park into a tightly-run activity with its own list of do's and don'ts.

The trend has inspired a book that likens the park cliques to school bullying. And a recent satirical TV movie depicted a park ruled by 50 women, all wearing white blouses and blue slacks. The sandbox - raked like a Japanese rock garden - was off limits to everyone, even children.

Department stores set up special displays of the "right" kind of park attire - baggy, unassuming sweat clothes are preferred. Guidebooks for newcomers to Tokyo counsel women on how to make a good impression at the

sandbox.

Mrs. Kihara, who brought a friend with her to the park the first time to calm her nerves, said it took her between three and five months to really feel like part of the gang.

"Once you get to know people it's easy," she said, standing beside a picnic table, with children playing on a jungle gym nearby. "But if you come here alone, it would be difficult."

Park debut - or "ko-en day-byu" in phonetic Japanese - in part reflects the disappearance of the extended family and an increasingly mobile younger generation.

Young mothers, often far from their families and living with busbands who work round-the-clock, turn to urban Japan's few and tiny green spaces for their only chance at a bit of socializing.

But sometimes they run head-first into a traditional mainstay of Japanese society - group identity. Newcomers can feel painfully out of place, and are initially shunned.

In fact, the social dynamic created by women at the park in many ways mirrors the corporate culture their husbands face at the office - a strong sense of being an insider or outsider, and guidelines of dress and behavior.

"Each group has its own atmosphere or feeling," said Moriko Iwasawa, 28, who used to bring her son to Mrs. Kihara's park. "You can see what mem-

bers are expected to do in each group."

While the "mommy cliques" at Japanese parks can be loosely organized, the one Mrs. Iwasawa belonged to seemed particularly strict.

She said there were set times for going to and leaving the park, and members were expected to advise the others ahead of time if they planned anything unusual - like bringing along a box lunch or going to the nearby kiddie pool.

The group even had a subtle sense of hierarchy based on seniority.

"Everybody knows who has been at the park the longest," she said while relaxing with her son and husband at another park. "You can't ignore the wishes of someone who's been with the group a long time."

Mrs. Iwasawa's visits to the group dropped off after she made a close friend outside it with whom she preferred to spend time.

In her 1995 book, "Park Debut," Chisato Motoyama detailed her experience as a member of a park clique in Tokyo. While the group offered companionship and allowed mothers to swap child-raising tips, in the end she compared its treatment of outsiders to harsh school bullying, a social concern in Japan.

Mrs. Kihara and the other mothers gathered around the picnic table say such attacks on park

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IRAN
POLITICAL NEWS

Yeltsin Seeking Political Peace and Quiet in Ribkin Appointment

MOSCOW (AFP) - Russian President Boris Yeltsin, waiting for doctors to set a date for heart bypass surgery, has tried to buy some political peace and quiet by appointing a flexible yes man to head his powerful security council and Chechnya peace efforts.

But analysts remain unsure whether Ivan Ribkin, a former Communist apparatchik and Parliament speaker, will actively pursue the peace path hewn by his ousted predecessor Alexander Lebed or will merely act as an expedient, the comfortable member of the executive that Lebed never was.

Lebed himself, who has vowed in fight back from his public ouster on Thursday and maintain his open bid for the presidency, has dismissed his successor as "incapable of assuring the security of Russia."

But in choosing Ribkin, Yeltsin has proven he is more interested in preserving unity in the Kremlin and trying to end the bitter feuds and struggles which have swirled provocatively around his sickbed for weeks, analysts say.

"His nomination to head the Chechnya dossier is very bad," said Andrei Piontkovsky, head of the Center for Strategic Studies. "He has never been very inter-

ested in Chechnya, but the little he did will ensure that the Chechens don't trust him."

Ribkin is in many ways the antithesis of Lebed. Where the former paratrooper general is unpredictable and popular, physically powerful and vocally formidable, Ribkin is the softly spoken safe option, the past master of consensus who is viewed indifferently by most ordinary Russians.

Immediately after his appointment, Ribkin stressed his commitment to the fragile peace processes currently taking root both in Chechnya and in the Kremlin.

Toeing the party line as or-

dered to by Yeltsin, Ribkin hit back at Lebed's accusations that he was not the right man for the job by stressing his support for the Chechen peace accords.

"I am a full supporter of the agreement which has been signed and which is peace," he said Saturday, echoing the official Kremlin line.

"The peace agreement was reached through the great effort of many individuals, and for someone to simply revise it, well, I just want to stay away from that," he said.

Ribkin, 50 on Sunday, responded to unflattering compar-



RIBKIN

sons with Lebed by saying: "Let Lebed be Lebed, and Ribkin will be Ribkin."

That Lebed will be Lebed remains beyond doubt. The sacked security chief has declared that he will maintain his push for the Kremlin, with analysts suggesting that his next step could be to stand for governor in his old constituency of Tula and enter Russia's Upper House of Parliament.

But even if Ribkin is Ribkin,

and fits smoothly into his new role, the Lebed affair and the Kremlin power spat have still wrought untold damage on Yeltsin's authority as a leader, not to mention the possible repercussions on his fragile state of health.

The daily Sevodnya pointed out that it is Yeltsin's Prime Minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, and Kremlin Chief of Staff, Anatoly Chubais, who now wield de facto power, while other observers said

the entire Lebed affair would never have blown up as it did if Yeltsin was in full control.

The Russian president, a consummate political operator in his heyday, failed to handle his abrasive and outspoken security chief from the moment he brought him into the Kremlin to boost his own re-election chances in June.

Significantly, Lebed's loose Cannon act took to the road just as Yeltsin suffered another heart attack at the end of June.

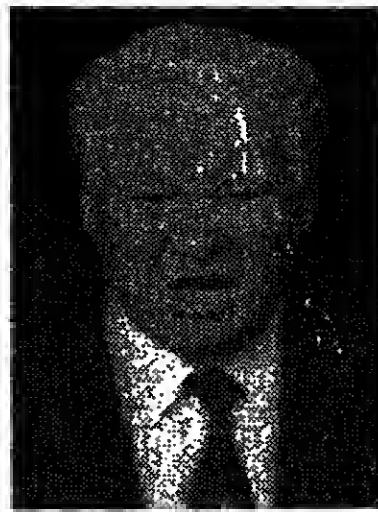
Absent for long periods since then, the Russian president looked tired and vacant as he announced Lebed's dismissal on Thursday, for all the Kremlin's efforts to stress that preparations for the multiple coronary bypass operation are proceeding as planned.

In Ribkin, who was quickly drawn into the establishment after his election as Parliament speaker in 1994, Yeltsin may have found the man to manage the security portfolio with a minimum of fuss. So the president can concentrate on his heart operation, scheduled for mid-November.

"The nomination of Ribkin to the Security Council is logical for Yeltsin. After Lebed, he wants someone he can handle easily," Piontkovsky said.



LEBED



YELTSIN

Pakistan's Bhutto Enters Fourth Year in Office Plagued by Problems

ISLAMABAD (AFP) - Pakistan's Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto began her fourth year in office Sunday, harried by economic and political pressures that are seen to be eroding her grip on power.

The past three years have been a mixed era of successes and setbacks for the 44-year-old leader of this Muslim nation of 130 million beset by a population explosion, an erratic economy and the uncertainties of nascent democratic rule.

Despite a spate of rumors and

Bhutto and Sharif have been locked in bitter confrontation almost from the day she rose to power for a second time in October 1993. The two have not met even once since then.

The PML last year staged protest marches and formed a united front with more than a dozen religious and opposition groups to campaign for Bhutto's ouster.

Bhutto's tenure has also been plagued by years of unrest in Karachi, Pakistan's commercial capital,

of around 10 percent.

Economic experts say the country is in deep trouble, with the stock market badly depressed, exports remaining sluggish and foreign exchange reserves officially said to have fallen to \$906 million from about \$2 billion in July.

The problems for the government were compounded when the International Monetary Fund (IMF) recently blocked the release of funds out of a 600-million-dollar credit pledged last year.

The freeze continues despite fresh negotiations in Washington this week, with the IMF reportedly pressing for new commitments by the government to widen the tax base, cut spending and slash the budget deficit to four percent of gross domestic product from the existing 5.5 percent.

The year has also seen Bhutto shaken by last month's killing of her younger brother Murtaza in a shootout between his guards and police in Karachi which she has linked to a "conspiracy."

"I don't know who is the next. I don't feel safe any more, my husband and my children are not safe," she told the News Daily.

Her rapport with President Farooq Ahmed Leghari, a former ally, has also come under strain, reportedly over administrative and economic performance of the government and inaction toward curbing corruption.

Leghari told Sharif late last month he would dissolve the National Assembly if national interest warranted the extreme step. The promise came after the opposition leader demanded the government's dismissal and fresh elections.

Analysts say that with her characteristic fighting spirit, Bhutto can weather the problems. "If she makes good use of the fast-running time, Bhutto can turn the corner," said commentator Talat Hussain.



BHUTTO

claims by her opponents of an imminent change. Bhutto remains confident her government will complete its five-year term.

"The people of Pakistan reposed their confidence in me and I am determined to fulfill my mandate till 1998," the Harvard- and Oxford-educated Bhutto said in an interview published Saturday.

Acknowledging that the nation faced "difficult times," Bhutto blamed her predecessor Nawaz Sharif for the ills of the country, saying her government inherited a bad economy.

Sharif's opposition Pakistan Muslim League (PML) accuses Bhutto's government of large-scale corruption, lavish spending and ruining the economy through mismanagement.



MURTAZA BHUTTO

where the government has launched a tough crackdown by police and para-military rangers.

Around 2,000 people have been killed in Karachi since early 1995 as security forces battled militants from the ethnic opposition group, Mohajir Qaumi Movement. The crackdown triggered allegations of gross human rights violations.

On the economic front, the success of a 6.7 percent growth in agricultural production in the most recent fiscal year has been overshadowed by a harsh new budget that imposed new taxes worth 41 billion rupees (around \$1.1 billion).

The 500 billion rupee (\$14 billion) 1996-97 budget touched off nationwide resentment amid soaring inflation that is privately estimated at double the official figure

A Year After Rabin's Killing, Israel Wonders If Any Lessons Learned

JERUSALEM (AFP) - Israel marks the first anniversary this week of Yitzhak Rabin's assassination, still unsure if the shock of a Jew killing a Jew for political reasons has taught the deeply divided nation any lasting lessons.

The political fallout from the prime minister's murder by a Jewish extremist opposed to his policy of granting Palestinians self-rule in the "Biblical Lands" of Israel is evident, the election victory seven months later of one of his fiercest right-wing opponents, Benjamin Netanyahu.

At the same time, tens of thousands of Israelis have written letters to the Rabin family expressing their distress at the loss of the man who brought their country hopes of an end to 100 years of conflict in the Holy Land.

Hundreds of thousands of candles bearing Rabin's image have been sold in recent weeks to be lit when Israel marks his slaying on Thursday, the anniversary of the November 4 assassination according to the Jewish calendar.

But in a telling sign of Israeli uncertainty over how to deal with the tragic murder of a national leader by another Jew, Rabin's watchword "peace" does not appear on the candles and there is nothing on them to even indicate that he died other than a natural death.

"Beyond the deep emotions felt by all after the killing, it seems that Israel has refused to really look into what it meant, to avoid worsening the divisions," said Ben Yehuda Nahman, a sociologist at Jerusalem's Hebrew University.

"It was a good thing that all mainline political factions in Israel denounced the murder, but this has not resolved the question of who was responsible for it," he said.



RABIN

He was referring to a violent anti-Rabin campaign led by Netanyahu and other right-wing leaders in the weeks and months leading up to the assassination.

Many in the pro-peace camp say that campaign, during which Rabin was accused of threatening the very existence of Israel by granting Palestinians autonomy, incited the young right-wing law student Yigal Amir to shoot him after an outdoor peace rally in Tel Aviv.

Amir boasted repeatedly of his act, which he defended as an act of divine justice sanctioned by Jewish religious law which permits the slaying of anyone who puts the lives of Jews in danger.

"The crime paid off in the sense that the murderer's aim was to halt the peace process, which is exactly what has happened," said historian Amnon Kapelluk.

"If Rabin had lived, he would have taken the peace process beyond the point of no return," he said.

Instead, Netanyahu and his governing coalition of nationalist



YIGAL AMIR

and religious parties have so far frozen implementation of the 1995 Oslo self-rule accords signed by Rabin and PLO leader Yasser Arafat, creating frustrations among Palestinians which erupted into the worst Israeli-Palestinian clashes in 30 years.

Another historian and journalist, Tom Segev, noted however that the anniversary comes just as Netanyahu is widely expected to finally agree on carrying out Israel's biggest outstanding Oslo commitment, withdrawing from the West Bank city of Hebron.

"This is exactly what the murderer wanted to prevent," Segev told AFP, referring to Hebron's Biblical position as the cradle of Jewish culture. "Amir missed his target because despite all the problems, the peace process is continuing."

Amir is serving a life prison sentence for killing Rabin, but no charges have been brought against right-wing leaders, including some rabbis, whose attacks on Rabin paved the way for the murder.

Real Madrid Romps Over Real Sociedad

MADRID, SPAIN (AP) - Real Madrid's Croat forward Davor Suker and Yugoslav midfielder Pedrag Mijatovic paired up to romp 6-1 over Real Sociedad and give Madrid the lead atop the Spanish First Division in the eighth round Saturday.

In the 10th minute, Sociedad found a weak spot on Madrid's right side when midfielder Francisco de Pedro passed long to Yugoslav forward Darko Kovacevic who headed it in to lift Sociedad 0-1.

The game changed in minute 25 when Sociedad's Jose Antonio Pikabea was ejected from the game with a red card after tripping Mijatovic inches outside the area.

Four minutes later Mijatovic waved through defenders just inside the area to even the game at 1-1, before some 85,000 spectators.

Suker converted a penalty in minute 43 to break the tie 2-1, an own goal by Sociedad's Swedish midfielder Hakan Mild helped Madrid to 3-1.

In minute 68, Mijatovic passed the ball to a well-positioned Suker waiting on the edge of the area who lobbed it over the outstretched arms of Sociedad goalkeeper Alberto Lopez for his fifth goal of the season, bringing it to 4-1.

Two last minute goals by Mijatovic and Suker closed the game at 6-1.

The win pushes an undefeated Madrid in the lead at 5-3-0 with 18 points. Deportivo de la Coruna, which won against Espanyol 2-0, boasts the same number of points, but fewer goals scored. Barcelona, set to play mid-ranked Logrones Sunday, is one point behind with 17.

Valladolid 3, Compostela 1
At Valladolid, goals by Croat striker Alen Pitermac in the 12th minute and Victor Manuel Fernandez three minutes later lifted Valladolid 2-0 over Compostela. Midfielder Jose Maria Quevedo turned an 80th-minute corner kick into Valladolid's third goal.

Nigerian forward Christopher Oben's scored Compostela's lone

goal in minute 67.

Valladolid moves up to fifth place with 14 points and a 4-2-2 record.

Extremadura 2, Zaragoza 1

At Extremadura, two goals by Yugoslav forward Igor Gluscevic in minutes 11 and 71 gave Extremadura its first win of the season.

Zaragoza's Gustavo Lopez goal in the 90th minute wasn't enough. The win leaves Extremadura with 3 points at 1-0-7.

Athletic Bilbao 2, Tenerife 0

At Bilbao, Athletic's Joseba Etxeberria found himself in front of the goal in minute 17 to bring it to 1-0. Midfielder Julio Guerrero netted the second goal in minute 53.

Athletic goalkeeper Juan Jose Valencia blocked a penalty kick by Antonio Pillaia in minute 67, giving his team its first shutout of the season.

Deportivo de la Coruna 2, Espanyol 0

In La Coruna, French midfielder Corentin Martins crossed to Brazilian midfielder Rivaldo Barbosa Ferreira who booted it in with a strong left foot to give Deportivo the 1-0 lead in minute 48.

Martins passed to countryman Michael Madar 19 minutes later for 2-0.

Hercules 1, Oviedo 1

At Hercules, Oviedo forward Oli Jesus Alvarez scored from 20 meters (yards) in minute 45 to push it to 1-0. Croat defender Dubravko Pavlicic scored for Hercules to tie it 1-1 in minute 65.

Hingis Beats Huber to Meet Novotna in Final

ZURICH, SWITZERLAND (AP) - Swiss teenager Martina Hingis defeated third-seed Anke Huber of Germany 3-6, 6-2, 7-6 (8-6) Saturday to advance to the championship match of the \$926,000 European indoors, her second final in eight days.

Hingis, seeded fifth, will meet fourth-seed Jana Novotna on Sunday after the Czech upset second-seed and defending champion Iva Majoli 5-7, 6-2, 6-2 in the other

semifinal, coming off her first career tournament title in Filderstadt Sunday, Hingis had breezed through the earlier rounds.

Having spent less than an hour on court in her three previous matches, the 16-year-old Swiss needed an hour and 50 minutes to close the semifinal.

After trading the first two sets, Hingis looked to take control of the match when she broke Huber to go ahead 5-4 in the third.

But the German broke back immediately and held serve, pushing the set to a tiebreak.

Acquiring a quick 6-1 lead in the tiebreak, an incredulous Hingis let five match points slip through her fingers as Huber leveled the score to 6-6.

Supported by the crowd, Hingis, managed to secure the next two points to close the match.

"I was up 6-1 and thought there was no way I'd lose," said a flushed

Hingis. "Normally you should be able to get one out of five shots."

"But at 6-6 I got really nervous. I thought if I lose this point I'll crush my racket in a thousand pieces."

Both players showed fits of temper throughout the match, flinging their rackets and each received a warning from the referee.

Hingis, who has won both previous matches she's played with Novotna, is nevertheless aware she'll have to be wary of the Czech. "Jana is a good indoors player," acknowledged Hingis. "She's got a great serve and volley and I'll have to be very careful of her."

In Novotna's semifinal, however, her serve was nothing to fear. Serves proved to be a problem for both players.

Early in the first set, neither player was able to hold their serve, breaking each other twice until they finally found their rhythm. Majoli, leading 6-5, then broke Novotna to take the set in 65 minutes.

But the exchange appeared to tire Majoli, and Novotna quickly took advantage, breaking the Croatian to take a 3-1 lead. Another timely break at 5-2 and Novotna was able to clinch the second set unchallenged.

Novotna broke the Croatian's opening serve in a tense final set to storm ahead 3-0.

While Majoli was able to break back once, it was not enough to halt Novotna's Momentum as the Czech swept the last three games to take the match in two hours and 12 minutes.

"I'm pretty sick today, so I wasn't playing too well," Novotna said.

No Goals? Oh, No

FOXBORO, MASS. (AP) - The two scariest words for Major League soccer officials and players as they look to yesterday's championship could very well be: "nil" and "nil."

Because if the American League's showcase game ends in one of goalless draws, it will likely be the lasting memory of the MLS season to many in the sports media and shatter the goodwill built up over its better-than-expected inaugural year.

"It's not going to be 15-0, boring baseball. I can promise you that," Commissioner Doug Logan said last week about the MLS Cup '96 final between D.C. United and the Los Angeles Galaxy.

Logan was referring to Thursday night's American Major League baseball playoff game in which the Atlanta Braves beat the St. Louis Cardinals 15-0.

For many Americans, particularly sports writers, soccer always has been characterized low-scoring, defensive sport with foreign players, an archaic time-keeping system and a scoreless draw just about every other match.

Those stereotypes were reinforced when the 1994 World Cup final, after a tournament that created excitement about the sport in this previously ambivalent country, went to penalties after 0-0 match.

So, when the MLS was being formed, one of its goals was more goals. Logan said the solution was staying away from the British, long-ball style and looking more toward the aggressive soccer styles of Latin America and Africa.

"It was a question we addressed," he said. "We were very careful students of history. And we went nut and got a lot of Latin players that play the 'gn' style." Scoring has not been a problem in the League's rookie year, Logan said. Only seven of 160 regular-season games were scoreless in regulation, with an average of 3.4 goals scored per game.

"We have had very few teams pull the forwards back and play a defensive game," he said, adding that D.C. United and Los Angeles are among the MLS' most aggressive.

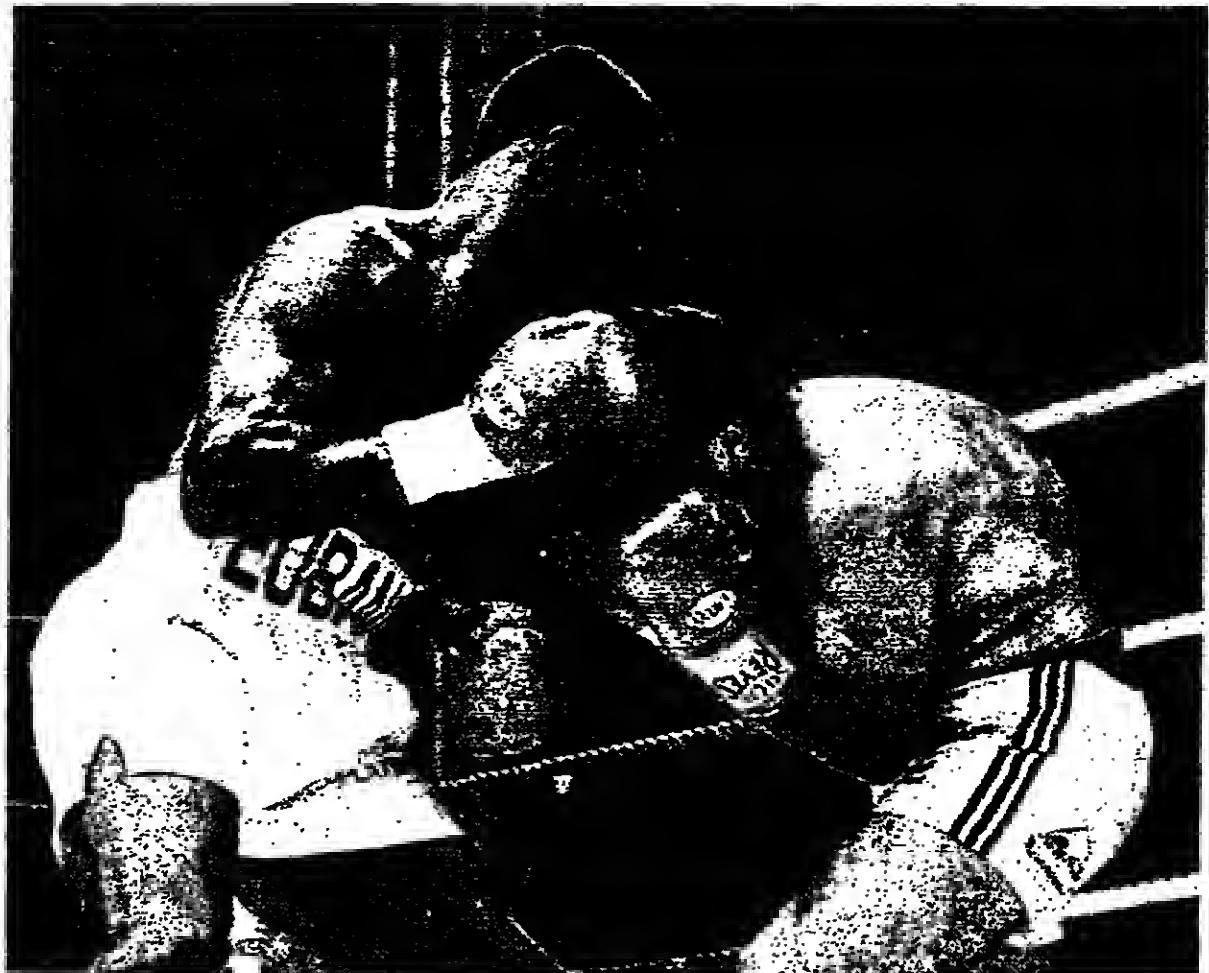
"I think we will try to make it as exciting as we can. We will go forward as much as we can," Galaxy coach Lothar Osiander promised this week.

Said his D.C. United counterpart, Bruce Arena: "We will attack, and it will be a good game for the fans."

But defense wins championships in just about every sport. And in title games, teams tend to get even more conservative.

In the event of any kind of tie at the end of regulation, the game will go to two 15-minute sudden death or "golden-goal" overtimes. If no one scores, it will go to a shootout, with players starting with the ball 35 yards out.

"If, at the end of regulation, the teams are tied, I'm interested to see what will happen in the overtimes," Logan said. "I can tell you that our final will be higher scoring than the world cup final."



CAIRO, EGYPT: British world super middleweight champion Chris Eubank (L) strikes Argentinian challenger Louise Barrera (R), knocking him down to win the match in Cairo October 19.

Eubank Knocks Out Barrera in Fifth Round

CAIRO, EGYPT (AP) - Britain's former champion Chris Eubank returned to the ring after a year-long absence with a fifth-round knockout Saturday of Argentinian's Luis Barrera.

After a slow start, Eubank landed a left jab and then a right hook, sending Barrera to the floor 43 seconds into the round of the light heavy-weight bout.

Eubank, 30, a former WBO

middleweight and super-middleweight champion, took command of the match in the third round with punishing left jabs that kept the outmatched Barrera on the defensive. Eubank strutted around the ring after each round.

Eubank, who weighed 78.3 kilograms (174 pounds), improved his record to 44-3-2. The 33-year-old Barrera, also weighing 78.3 kilograms (174 pounds),

dropped to 35-8-5 with his fifth consecutive loss.

Eubank's successful comeback came a year after he announced his retirement following a second defeat by Irishman Steve Collins, the fighter who took Eubank's title in March 1995.

That loss ended Eubank's impressive 3-year reign, in which he survived 19 consecutive WBO championship bouts.



PAUL INCE (in Black)

Television is not considered an official proof by the soccer tribunal, but can sometimes influence the judges' decisions.

Sunday's Juventus-Inter is the

leading match of the season's sixth round and is likely to decide First Division leadership. Inter enters the match with a one-point lead over Juventus.

Ince's Suspension Reduced to One Game

MILAN, ITALY (AP) - Inter's English midfielder Paul Ince had a two-game suspension halved by the Disciplinary Commission of the Italian Soccer League, following an appeal of the Inter club.

The Englishman will serve the one-round suspension in Sunday's League match against Juventus at Turin, but will be on Inter's lineup the following weekend against Parma.

Reversing in part a previous decision, the commission on Saturday ruled that Ince actually reacted to a racial insult by an opponent, but did not hit him violently as originally reported by the referee in last Saturday's League game against Piacenza.

Ince had appealed the two-round suspension of Ince on the grounds a television tape showed

that the English player did not hit Piacenza's defender Giampietro Piovani. Piovani also said after the match he had exaggerated effects of Ince's push.

کتابخانه ملی